



Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية تصدر بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الاردنية «الراي»

Cheney meets Israeli defence minister

WASHINGTON (R) — U.S. Defence Secretary Dick Cheney met Friday with Israeli Defence Minister Moshe Arens in the first high-level talks between the two countries since establishment of a hard-line Israeli government. At the same time, the State Department announced that Secretary of State James Baker would meet Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy in Washington on Aug. 9 or 10. The meeting with Cheney, announced Thursday, was set up shortly after Arens was named defence minister last month, a Defence Department spokesman said. The Pentagon discussions and next month's meeting appeared to signal a slight warming of relations between the two countries, which have been strained since Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, leader of the rightist Likud party, launched at Baker's plan for a dialogue with Palestinians to prepare for Palestinian elections. While Cheney and Arens talked at a Pentagon lunch, State Department spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler also faced questions about the postponement of a scheduled meeting of a joint committee that coordinates the nearly \$2 billion dollars in U.S. military aid to Israel (see page 2).

Iranian pilot seeks Saudi asylum

NICOSIA (R) — An Iranian helicopter pilot landed at a Saudi Arabian airport Friday and sought asylum for himself and his five-member family, the Saudi Press Agency (SPA) reported. It quoted a Ministry of Defence and Aviation official as saying the pilot flew into Saudi air space over the Gulf at very low altitude. "He sent a signal of peace and pleaded for help to land at the nearest airport on the east coast (of the Kingdom)... the authorities concerned responded to his request," the official said. SPA, received in Cyprus, said the helicopter was detected by early warning systems at 6 a.m. (8300 GMT) Friday. The pilot was accompanied by his wife, three children and a sister-in-law. "He expressed his desire to seek political asylum in the kingdom," it added without elaboration. Saudi Arabia, long at odds with Iran's Muslim fundamentalist leaders, broke relations with Tehran in 1988 after accusing it of hostility and interfering in the kingdom's internal affairs. The break came nearly a year after 481 people, mostly Iranians, were killed in a clash between Saudi security guards and demonstrators who staged an anti-Western rally in the Holy City of Mecca during the Haj pilgrimage.

Volume 15 Number 4444

AMMAN SATURDAY, JULY 21, 1990, DHUL HILJEH 29, 1410

Price: Jordan 100 fils; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams.

U.S. hints furnaces to Iraq were blocked

WASHINGTON (R) — The State Department hinted Friday that the U.S. government had acted to block the export of three advanced industrial furnaces to Iraq because of fears they would be used for nuclear weapons development. Spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler acknowledged the department was aware of a proposed export deal and was working with other government agencies to address the issue. "In this regard, we understand that the Department of Commerce, under the export administration act, has taken certain steps to deal with this matter," she told reporters. Tutwiler refused to provide any details or say for sure if the export of furnaces had been blocked. The New York Times reported Friday that the decision to block the export was reached at the White House and came after the Pentagon and a bloc of Republican senators urged President George Bush to keep the furnaces out of Iraqi military hands.

De Klerk, Mandela set date for talks

CAPE TOWN (R) — Black nationalist leader Nelson Mandela and South African President F.W. de Klerk agreed Friday that talks between the African National Congress (ANC) and the government would resume Aug. 6. De Klerk's press spokesman Casper Venter said Mandela requested the meeting in Pretoria, which lasted over an hour, after he returned Wednesday from a six-week tour to Africa, Europe and North America. It was the first meeting between the two men since June 2, when they discussed progress following the first official ANC talks with the white government in May.

Rebels close in on Liberian capital

MONROVIA (AP) — Advancing rebels captured much of the northern part of the capital Friday, squeezing most of the few hundred remaining government troops into a narrow strip of land on both sides of President Samuel Doe's executive mansion. The rebels, led by former Doe aide Charles Taylor, overran Monrovia's five-square-kilometre port area in the northern suburb of Bushrod Island. They advanced toward the two bridges linking the island to the centre of the city. Infiltrating rebel troops fought pitched battles with government soldiers who remained on Bushrod Island, witnesses said.

Explosion kills 4 on Soviet train

MOSCOW (R) — Four people were killed and 10 injured in an explosion on a passenger train near the Black Sea, a Soviet Interior Ministry spokesman said Friday. Police were searching for an Azerbaijani man who had shouted to other passengers that there would be a blast just before the explosion near the Russia-Ukraine border Thursday, he said. "We cannot say yet whether it was a bomb," the spokesman for the ministry's transport department in Moscow said, but he described the incident as "premeditated."

Court throws out North's conviction

WASHINGTON (R) — A U.S. court of appeals Friday threw out former White House aide Oliver North's three-count criminal conviction in the Iran-contra scandal that rocked Ronald Reagan's presidency. The ruling was a major setback to the independent special prosecutor who is still probing the secret sale of U.S. arms to Iran and the diversion of profits to Nicaraguan contra rebels in 1985-86, when such military assistance was banned by Congress. North, a national security aide who masterminded the operation, was convicted last year of destroying secret White House documents, helping to obstruct efforts by Congress to learn about the scandal and accepting an illegal gift in the form of a \$13,800 home security fence from an associate.

Diplomatic efforts under way to settle Iraq-Kuwait dispute

KUWAIT (Agencies) — Arab League Secretary-General Chadli Kibbi flew to Kuwait Friday to join other Arab efforts to settle the border and oil crisis between Iraq and Kuwait.

King Fahd of Saudi Arabia and President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt added their voices to calls for moderation in the rupture between the neighbours, once allies in the eight-year Gulf war.

Kibbi was to discuss with Kuwait's leadership its call for an Arab committee to demarcate the tiny state's 160-kilometre border with Iraq before moving to Baghdad.

Kuwait called for the demarcation Thursday replying to Iraqi claims that it was stealing oil from within Iraqi territory and installing military and agricultural posts on Iraqi soil.

Iraq has demanded compensation for an estimated \$2.4 billion of allegedly stolen oil. Iraqi President Saddam Hussein has also charged Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) of causing \$14 billion in lost oil revenues for Iraq.

He said production by the UAE and Kuwait beyond ceilings set by the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) caused a recent fall in oil prices. He threatened force to stop the overproduction.

In the Iraqi memorandum to the Arab League against Kuwait, Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz said the Kuwaiti deeds were tantamount to "military aggression" which Iraq could no longer ignore.

Kuwait countered by saying that there was "a rich record of

violations of Kuwaiti territory" by Iraq. It did not specify but was obviously alluding to an Iraqi claim to Kuwaiti territory in the 1960s following the British colonial pullout from the area.

Kuwait's media played up the "noble Kuwaiti stance and sacrifices" during the Iraq-Iran war, when the country was target of Iranian missile attacks, attacks on its vital oil shipping lanes and home terrorism by pro-Iranian activists.

Kuwait was second to Saudi Arabia in an Arab effort which pumped some \$40 billion into Iraq's coffers during the war. The UAE was also a contributor.

Iraq renewed attacks on Kuwait and the UAE Friday despite the diplomatic efforts to halt the growing row.

Iraq's official press said Kuwait and the UAE could not be trusted to abide by commitments to cut back oil production, despite pledges to do so at an emergency meeting in Saudi Arabia last week.

"This is not the first time that the two governments made such a commitment and then breached it in disregard of... patriotic and national interests and the interests of other OPEC states," the government daily Al-Jumhuriya said.

World oil markets remained very quiet Friday ahead of next week's meeting in Geneva of the 13-nation OPEC and confusion over the Gulf situation.

The UAE issued a statement, carried by Bahrain's Gulf News Agency Friday, saying Iraqi attack on its oil policy "is rejected and has no basis in fact."

"Iraqi allegations casting suspicion on the UAE oil policy are rejected and unfounded," UAE Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Rashid Abdullah said in a letter to Kibbi.

"The UAE position in OPEC is known and honourable," he said in the letter.

The letter said: "Defending the world oil market is a collective responsibility by producers inside and outside the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries."

"The UAE has once again proved its keenness towards oil market stability and OPEC unity by reducing its output to levels below its quota."

Abdullah, who asked Kibbi to distribute his letter to the league's 21 member-states, said the UAE had received the Iraqi charges with "deep regret."

"Emotional charges... are bound to lead to negative repercussions on the Arab drive towards unified action and would only benefit the enemies of the Arab Nation," he said.

"The UAE believes that problems and Arab differences, if present, should be resolved in the spirit of brotherliness, wisdom and mutual respect," the letter added.

Most Arab leaders have called on all sides to cool the quarrel, which has also put strains on Arab solidarity.

Editor Mafouz Ansari of one of Egypt's main state-owned newspapers, Al Gomhouriya, accused Kibbi of fuelling the dispute by not hesitating to circulate Iraq's initial blast against Kuwait.

Diplomats in Kuwait did not expect a military confrontation.

Petra Bank liquidation process begins today

By Sahar Qara'een and P.V. Vivekanand

AMMAN — The government Friday formally set the wheel in motion for the liquidation of Petra Bank, heralding the beginning of the end of what was once almost a one-man-run banking empire stretching, directly and indirectly, from exchange houses and real estate to computer companies and supermarkets.

The decision to liquidate Petra Bank was announced by the Economic Security Committee (ESC) in a memorandum to the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ). It disbanded a management committee appointed in August last year when it took over the financially troubled bank and named a new five-member panel as the liquidation committee headed by the CBJ, which was given full authority over all Petra Bank affairs until the liquidation process is completed in all its aspects.

The ESC, created after martial law was declared in Jordan in 1967, outlined a series of overriding laws and stipulations which in effect lifted the Petra Bank affair totally beyond the jurisdiction of the companies law and other related regulations.

Legal experts said the measures applied and applicable in the liquidation process were clearly designed at eliminating any kind of hurdle in settling the affairs of the institution, which was once seen as the second largest commercial bank in the Kingdom.

In his capacity as the head of the liquidation process as named in the ESC decision, CBJ Governor Mohammad Saad Al Nabulsi Friday appointed a five-member committee to supervise the process. The five are: (President) Dr. Mohammad Saleh Hourani, a former senior official at the Ministry of Trade and Industry and head of the Cities and Villages Development Bank, (vice-president) Mr. Aqel Tababoud, a senior CBI official, (members) Bassam Attari, General Manager of Petra Bank, Mamoun Farooq, a private sector auditor, and Fathi Hamed (a CBI legal expert).

"The decision to dissolve Petra

Bank was inevitable," said Dr. Abdullah Malki, director-general of the Association of Jordanian Banks. "It would have been the sooner the better since the bank had lost all its reputation and it was clear that there was no way to salvage it," Dr. Malki told the Jordan Times Friday.

Meanwhile, informed banking circles said the Housing Bank would be able to begin its services to the Petra Bank accounts, transferred to it, only by the end of the month in view of the amount of paperwork and related procedures involved. The CBJ has made interim measures to make available funds to those who have pressing needs upon presentation of their deposit certificates issued by Petra Bank.

According to a reliable source, the total of Petra Bank deposits covered under the transfer is in the region of JD 130 million representing about 48,000 accounts.

The sources said the total deficit (the difference in assets and liabilities) of Petra Bank was put at between JD 252 million and JD 255 million by the auditors. "It is a conservative estimate," the sources said. "I believe that the actual deficit could be less by the time the affairs of the bank are wound up."

The source noted that the figure included claims by external sources which are not guaranteed or met in the liquidation process since the bulk of them are from institutions either owned or controlled by the former chairman of Petra Bank, Ahmad Chalabi, who left the country in mysterious circumstances shortly after the take-over of the bank by the ESC. No accurate figure was immediately available on the external claims, but sources put it at between \$125 million to \$135 million.

An indication of the CBJ's move to handle external claims on Petra Bank as well as its own external claims was seen in the exclusion from the transfer process of accounts of at least four foreign banking institutions: the Beirut-based Middle East Banking Company, the Geneva-based Societe Comptable et Financiere and the Sudanese National Bank. At least two of the four, Middle East Banking Co. and Societe, are believed to be owned and controlled by Chalabi and are cited by senior officials to have been deeply involved in funneling money out of Jordan and in speculating over the dinar.

The CBJ has pumped in more

than JD 200 million to keep Petra Bank afloat after the takeover, Nabulsi said in a television interview last week. Most banking experts expected most of the estimated JD 150 million owed to Petra Bank to be either wholly collected or concrete measures to be worked out between the liquidator and the debtor subject to the decision of the former.

The ESC decision empowers the liquidator to immediately call in all loans, overdrafts and credits extended by Petra Bank regardless of previous arrangements. However, it left the door open for new repayment arrangements to be worked out between the liquidator and the debtor subject to the decision of the former.

In the same vein, another banking expert said the duration for the liquidation set by the ESC of two years but renewable as necessary was "enough."

"In fact, the process could be completed in less than three years, in light of the powers granted to the liquidator by the ESC," said the expert.

In the meantime, offers have been made to Petra Bank for the purchase of at least half a dozen of its branches, informed sources said. Informed sources said the Bahrain-based Arab Banking Corporation, which opened a branch in Jordan earlier this year, has already bought the Shamsian branch of Petra Bank. No figures were available.

One of the main problems expected to figure high in the Petra Bank liquidation process is what is described as "prony transactions" by banking circles. "The former management had used dozens of people, including family members, as a front to acquire controlling interest many commercial establishments," said a banker. "Some of them are industrial units, others are supermarkets, and yet some others are commercial firms," he told the Jordan Times. "What the management actually had was almost an empire with its fingers on almost every pie in town."

The following are the series of measures and stipulations related to the liquidation of Petra Bank outlined by the ESC:

1. The present Petra Bank management committee is considered dissolved as from the date it is



His Majesty King Hussein, accompanied by His Royal Highness Prince Faisal and senior officials, recites verses from the holy Koran at the tomb of King Abdullah I in Petra.

King marks anniversary of grandfather's death

AMMAN (J.T) — His Majesty King Hussein, who returned home late Thursday after visits to Yemen, Saudi Arabia and Oman, marked the anniversary of the death of the founder of the Kingdom, King Abdullah I, by visiting the tomb of the late King and reciting the verses of the Koran.

The King was accompanied by His Royal Highness Prince Faisal, Prime Minister Mudar Badran and senior officials.

During his three-day visit to the tip of the Arabian peninsula and the Gulf, the King held talks with the leaders of Yemen, Saudi Arabia and Oman on the latest developments in the Arab region and bilateral relations, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, reported.

The King was accompanied on the visit by the prime minister, Royal Court Chief Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker and Political Advisor Adnan Abu Odeh.

Findings of corruption probes go before Lower House today

By Joumana Halasa and P.V. Vivekanand

AMMAN — The findings of over three months of investigations into nine possible cases of corruption to go before the Lower House of Parliament Saturday, when the chamber will begin studying the cases and decide on further action where "ministers" — meaning serving and former Cabinet members — are involved.

All findings of investigations have been sent to the Lower House by the prosecutor-general's office, and at least four projects investigated have been found to involve "ministers" in possible corruption cases, informed sources said Friday.

Testimonies taken from dozens of senior officials, including several former cabinet members, implicate "ministers" in possible corruption in the Swaga prison project, the Abu Nsir housing complex project, the King Talal Dam project and the Al-Jafr-Azraq highway project — according to a highly-placed official source.

"The reports have already been sent to the Lower House," said the source, speaking on condition of anonymity. The interpretation of related articles in the Constitution

states that any case involving a "minister" should be referred to the Lower House, and all such cases should be tried by a special court on which sit some of the highest-ranking judges in the Kingdom.

The House will appoint a committee which will be entrusted with studying the findings which implicate "ministers" and presenting recommendations to the full House, which will take a vote to decide whether to send the issue to the special court for trial. Every case should have a two-third majority endorsement of the House before it could be sent to the special court.

The House is not bound by the findings of the prosecutor-general whether there is a case or not, said Abdul Latif Arabiyat, spokesman for the Muslim Brotherhood in Parliament. "If need be, we will ask for fresh investigations wherever needed," he told the Jordan Times.

At least three specific allegations involving a "minister" in each have been found to be lacking in substantive evidence, according to the source. But, as Arabiyat stressed, "it is not for the prosecutor-general to decide whether to drop a case or not."

Legal proceedings in possible corruption cases involving former or serving officials below the rank of ministers and businessmen as well as "middlemen who could be key witnesses" have already been launched and at least two people were arrested and released on JD 10,000 bail each last week, the source said.

The two, identified here only as A.N. (a contractor) and M.A. (an accountant) in view of laws related to revealing names of people on trial, were detained Tuesday and freed on bail Wednesday. The arrests were made in light of findings of probes into the Abu Nsir project, and are related to the supply of equipment to the complex, according to the source.

No precise figure of the amount of the contract was immediately available. Bnt, said the source, "there is strong evidence to support the charges against the two." Formal court proceedings are expected to begin in mid-August, he added.

"It is only one case related to the Abu Nsir complex project, the source said. There are at least a dozen other cases linked to various other phases of construction of the project."

"More arrests are being considered," he added.

The main charge in the case raised by the Lower House was that how the project, which was originally estimated to cost around JD 24 million, had ended up with a total cost of JD 36 million. Related charges also cover exemptions from penalties extended to contractors without going through the formal procedures, according to sources.

However, the most serious charge is expected to be levelled against a "minister," according to the official source.

Since the clearance to arrest or try a "minister" for any crime he (or she) is suspected of having committed while in office has to come from the Lower House, all aspects of cases where a "minister" is involved have been sent to the House while the prosecutor-general's office has launched proceedings against others in the regular courts," the source explained.

The findings sent to the Lower House last week represent three and a half months of investigation following a request by the House through the

(Continued on page 4)

Clashes, strike mark Tel Aviv massacre

TEL AVIV (R) — Palestinians clashed with troops in the Israeli-occupied Gaza Strip Friday after prayer services commemorating two months since an Israeli gunman killed seven Arab workers in Israel.

No one was injured during the disturbances, Palestinian sources said.

Transport ground to a halt in the occupied West Bank and the Strip and shops and businesses were closed as residents locked themselves into their homes in a general strike, Palestinians said.

The United Leadership of the Uprising, in its latest regular leaflet, designated the 20th of every month as a day of general strike in honour of the seven gunmen down while waiting for work near Tel Aviv May 20.

"Soldiers are the only ones on the streets," said a Palestinian journalist in the West Bank city of Hebron.

In the Strip, Israeli soldiers shot and wounded four Palestinians during stone-throwing incidents in the Rafah refugee camp Thursday night, residents reported.

A seven-year-old boy lost his right eye after a teargas grenade struck him in the face in Bureil refugee camp, the Jerusalem-based Palestine Press Service reported.

Local journalists said at least 34 people were beaten by soldiers after clashes in various parts of the Gaza Strip.

Jordanian fears are genuine, expert tells U.S. Congress

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — Jordan has genuine concerns over the massive wave of Soviet Jewish immigration to Israel since the issue has "implications for water resources and other things, and most certainly for the peace process," the American Congress was told Thursday.

"If we talk about a million immigrants, somebody is going to be pushed to move and inhabit or settle the West Bank," Paul Jureidini, of Abbot Associates in Springfield, Virginia, told a hearing of the U.S. House of Representatives Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Europe and the Middle East.

While Jordan is not opposed "per se, to Jewish immigration to Israel," said Jureidini, a respected scholar and expert on the

Middle East, "what worries (Jordan) is immigration, vast scale immigration, leading to displacement of Palestinians from the West Bank, leading to Jordan becoming a Palestinian state."

Jureidini, describing Jordan as at "a crossroads" in light of the democratisation process in the Kingdom and its economic crisis coupled with the political developments, paid tribute to Jordan.

"The record of Jordan speaks for itself," he said. "I'm amazed, for instance, that none of the King's opponents, even those who tried coups, was ever put to death. They were allowed to leave the country and ultimately come back, were forgiven, and even given rather impressive positions of power."

He described the November general elections in Jordan as "absolutely full, fair and free," and said that the media in the Kingdom "is as free as you can have it."

Turning to the Middle East peace process, Jureidini said that there was a feeling of "disappointment, regret and anger" that the U.S. has "used Jordan when the ideological imperative was there, when it was the only moderate Arab country, and suddenly we have abandoned it; or we have attempted to push it towards policy objectives or policy goals that may be detrimental to Jordan, and that at this moment we basically are turning away."

Palestinian rights key to peace, U.S. Congress told, page 2

Exodus from W. Bank on the rise despite Jordanian moves

By Ahmad Khreishan Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A total of 70,000 residents have failed to return to the occupied West Bank despite Jordanian regulations discouraging their extended stay here after the Kingdom's decision to sever legal and administrative ties with the occupied territory, according to Governor Mohammad Majed Al Adwan, head of the Ministry of Interior's Follow-up and Inspection Department.

Adwan said the figure represents 10 per cent of the population of the West Bank.

He said the department was embarking on the necessary steps to ensure the return of those people to the occupied West Bank in line with the Jordanian

government's regulations, designed to safeguard the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people and foil Israeli plans to evict Palestinians from the West Bank and settle Soviet Jewish immigrants there.

Adwan said that the department provides all facilities to the West Bankers on their arrival, stay and departure.

However, the concerned Jordanian authorities stipulate that West Bankers and Gazans should not use the Israeli airports when leaving the West Bank or Gaza in a bid to ban the immigration of these people from the occupied territories. He noted that the authorities ask them to use either the King Hussein or Prince Mohammad bridges on the River Jordan upon leaving or entering the West Bank.

The Israeli authorities are also limiting the number of Palestinians going to the occupied territories across the bridge in violation of an agreement reached with the United Nations Truce Committee.

A spokesman for the Public Security Department (PSD) said that last week the Israelis reduced the number of visitors gradually, far below the quota agreed on with the committee which is 1,500 persons per day across the Prince Mohammad Bridge on normal days and 800 on Fridays, and 2,500 persons per day across the King Hussein Bridge on normal days and 1,250 on Fridays.

The gradual reduction was felt last week and no reason was given by the Israeli authorities, the PSD official said.

Palestinian rights are key to peace, experts tell American Congress

By Norma S. Holmes
USIA Staff Writer

WASHINGTON — The "new reality" in the Middle East, that Palestinians recognise that "Israel is not going away," a leading U.S. expert on the Middle East told members of the U.S. Congress and suggested that they take note of this change.

"I think that it's a key change. I think we have to accept to some degree that when they say they want peace, with a state in the West Bank and Gaza, that is something to listen to," says Dr. Aladar Drysdale, a professor of Middle East studies at the University of New Hampshire.

He said the fact that Palestinians for so long did not recognise the legitimacy of Israel, that for 20 years the Palestinian issue seemed to be secondary to interstate conflict "does not make that recognition today something insubstantial, something false, something that we can't trust. The changes have occurred. I think we have to take the risk," Drysdale said.

Drysdale was one of a panel of three expert witnesses testifying on the Middle East at the fourth in an ongoing series of hearings on "The Middle East in the 1990s" conducted by the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Europe and the Middle East.

The July 17 hearing explored the political situation in Jordan, Iraq, and Syria; internal and external pressures that may be altering the foreign and domestic policies of these three countries; and the current status of, and future prospects for U.S. relations with each country.

With Drysdale on the panel of witnesses were author and scholar Paul Jureidini, of Abbot Associates in Springfield, Virginia, who testified on Jordan, and Dr. Phoebe Marr, a leading U.S. expert on Iraq.

Egypt-Syria link
In his assessment of Syria in the 1990s, Drysdale underscored the significance of the new rapprochement between Egypt and Syria. "To have the two poles — the peace camp and the rejection camp — in effect, coming together — I think the implications of that are potentially extraordinary, although it's going to take some time before we know what all of the consequences of that are."

Noting that there have been intensive efforts under way for many months for a reconciliation between Syria and Iraq, Drysdale said that "one of Israel's big concerns, of course, is that that reconciliation will take place. If Syria and Iraq come together, that will change the picture dramatically."

Representative Lawrence Smith (Democrat of Florida), exploring Syria's role in Lebanon, asked Drysdale about Syria's role in hostage taking.

"I think Syria does not have a controlling influence over the hostages in Lebanon — I don't think Syria can release the hostages at will," Drysdale responded. But he noted that Syria has some influence with Iran, which through its proxies, could gain their release.

Asked about the prospects for Syrian withdrawal from Lebanon, Drysdale said that "Syria's long-term interest is not in staying in Lebanon. I don't think that, ultimately, Assad wants to be in Lebanon."

Drysdale also challenged an analogy drawn by Rep. Smith between Egypt and Syria in the peace process, noting that "Sadat could sign a separate peace treaty for the Sinai; Assad is not going to do that for the Golan." He said the Golan Heights for Syria "is just a part of the puzzle. Equally important from their perspective, is the future of the Palestinians."

Asked by Smith what role the United States might play in bilateral talks between Israel and Syria, Drysdale said it is "unlikely that Syria will take up any invitation to talk bilaterally with Israel."

He said that Syria views the invitation of the Shamir government for direct talks on a settlement in Lebanon as "intended for an American audience" and "a way of distracting attention away from the Baker peace plan. They see it as dust in their eyes to detract attention."

He said Assad is convinced that only an international conference, convened under U.N. auspices by the five permanent members of the Security Council and attended by all parties involved in the dispute, including the Palestinians, can bring lasting peace to the region.

Nevertheless, Drysdale noted, Assad did not try to undermine the Baker plan for

bringing the Palestinians and Israelis together for talks in Cairo. "He did not actively stand in the way of the Palestinians, possibly because he was convinced, correctly, that the plan would fail and that Shamir would do his work for him."

Drysdale added that the United States has informed Syria that it is not its intention to exclude Syria from the peace process and that "ultimately it wants progress toward peace on all fronts, including the Golan Heights."

Jureidini, in assessing Jordan's role in the 1990s, said, "The Hashemite Kingdom is at a crossroads." The Kingdom remains militarily weak relative to all its neighbours, he said, and it is in a continuing economic crisis as well.

What worries the Jordanians are the foreign policy, the external situation in the region, and their economic internal situation, he said, and "the unlimited emigration of Jews from the Soviet Union."

Jureidini said the issue of Soviet emigration to the occupied territories "has implications for water resources and other things, and certainly for the peace process." If we talk about a million immigrants, somebody's going to be pushed to move and inhabit or settle the West Bank.

At the same time, he said, "the survival of Jordan depends on peace." Jureidini said the Hashemite Kingdom "has to make sure that it does not become the battlefield of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, the Arab-Israeli conflict, the tensions between Israel and Iraq, or the tensions between Iraq and Syria."

Asked by Rep. Mel Levine (Democrat of California) if His Majesty King Hussein, in his July 16 "Nightline" television programme interview, had not signalled that "he has now decided to become the point person on the issue of trying to keep Soviet Jews, not just out of the West Bank and Gaza, but out of Israel altogether," Jureidini said that "the King is not opposed, per se, to Jewish immigration to Israel."

"I think what worries him is immigration — vast scale immigration — leading to resettlement in the West Bank, leading to displacement of Palestinians from the West Bank, leading to Jordan becoming a Palestinian

state," Jureidini said.

Asked by Hamilton to assess Jordan's present attitude toward the United States, Jureidini said that the feeling in Jordan is "more a disappointment, regret, anger" that the United States has "used Jordan when the ideological imperative was there, when it was the only moderate Arab country, and suddenly we have abandoned it; or we have attempted to push it towards policy objectives or policy goals that may be detrimental to Jordan, and that at this moment we basically are turning away."

Asked by Hamilton to assess the progress of democracy in Jordan, Jureidini said "the record of Jordan speaks for itself."

"I'm always amazed, for instance, that none of the King's political opponents, even those who tried coups, were ever put to death. They were allowed to leave the country and ultimately came back, were forgiven, and even given rather impressive positions of power in the government," he said.

Jureidini said that from 1971 until very recently, Jordan had a state of martial law, "and yet it was one of the least oppressive martial-law situations ever seen anywhere in the Middle East for the Third World."

Asked if they had political prisoners, Jureidini said "To my knowledge, practically none." Jordan's recent elections were "absolutely full, fair and free," he said. The media in Jordan "is as free as you can have it," and political parties can now organise, he added.

In assessing U.S.-Jordanian relations and Jordan's role in the region, Jureidini said that Jordan is essential to peace in the Middle East — because the Jordanians want peace and have pursued it genuinely for over 20 years.

Since any instability in Jordan is going to affect its neighbours — whether Israel, Syria, Iraq or Saudi Arabia — Jureidini suggested, as a first step, that the United States and other nations, "reassure Jordan about our interest in its security and take active steps to reinforce that assurance; and, two, that we participate actively in economic projects in Jordan that seem to deal with water resources, food, agriculture, and the like."

MIDDLE EAST NEWS BRIEFS

Man beheaded in S. Arabia for rape

NICOSIA (R) — Saudi Arabia Friday beheaded in public a man who robbed and raped two women, Radio Riyadh reported. It quoted an interior ministry statement as saying Abdullah Jabir al Odwani was caught last week when he attacked a third woman. Saudi Arabia has executed at least 17 people this year. It put to death nearly 100 in 1989, according to official announcements.

'Only Rabin can beat Shamir'

TEL AVIV (R) — Former Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin is the only man who can lead Israel's Labour Party to victory over Likud Party Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, according to an opinion poll published Friday. The Dahaf Institute poll for the newspaper Yedioth Ahronoth was taken ahead of a Labour Party vote next Sunday on whether to let Rabin and other aspirants challenge the leadership of Shimon Peres. It found Rabin would win 42 per cent of support to Shamir's 39 per cent. In a race between Peres and Shamir, the Labour leader would get only 36 per cent compared with 44 per cent for Shamir. During five years as defence minister which ended in March, Rabin gained popularity because of his iron-fisted handling of the Palestinian uprising combined with an avowed desire to negotiate a solution.

Heatwave scorches UAE

ABU DHABI (R) — Hospitals have treated 35 people for sunstroke as the United Arab Emirates (UAE) sweltered in the fiercest heatwave for five years. Health officials urged people to stay out of the sun after the temperature soared to 48 degrees Centigrade (118 Fahrenheit) Thursday. Weathermen said the heatwave in the mainly desert Gulf state, one of the hottest regions on earth, would last another 24 hours. The temperature in July is normally about 40 degrees C (104 F).

No punishment for 2 Israeli officers

TEL AVIV (AP) — A senior army officer Friday overruled an investigating panel's recommendation on two of the eight officers blamed for a training accident that killed five soldiers. The investigation found widespread failures in backup systems designed to prevent accidents such as the one in which an artillery shell exploded among a group of reservists Tuesday. The blast also injured 10 soldiers. The investigation committee recommended eight officers be removed from their posts. But Uri Saguy, commander of army ground forces, said two of them would remain in their jobs since they were only following orders.

U.S. postpones key meeting with Israel

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — The United States has postponed an annual meeting with Israeli representatives to review joint defence projects, stirring speculation the move was designed to prod Israel into accepting peace talks with Palestinians. The talks, known as the joint security assistance programme, were scheduled to be held in Washington next week. The U.S. postponement took Israeli officials by complete surprise, said a source who spoke on condition of anonymity.

A State Department official said the postponement was due to the budget meetings under way between the administration and Congress, which he said have created some uncertainty about the amount of money that will be available for foreign aid. Israel is the largest recipient of U.S. aid, getting \$3 billion annually in military and economic assistance.

"We are not sending any signals," said the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity. The official said Israel had agreed to the U.S. suggestion that the talks be held in September. Secretary of State James Baker has been pressing Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir to agree to peace talks with Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. But Shamir has resisted the pressure and Baker has in recent weeks displayed marked impatience.

Wreckage of Israeli plane found on Golan Heights

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Searchers found the wreckage of a stolen air force plane near the Syrian border Friday, along with the body of the reservist who stole the craft, the army said. The discovery ended the largest air, land and sea search in the country's history, launched a week ago after the first theft of an Israeli air force plane.

The plane was stolen from an air base in central Israel by a 33-year-old reservist pilot, Hagai Morry, who made an unauthorized take-off shortly before he was scheduled to fly on a routine mission.

A military communiqué said Morry's body was found near the remains of the plane on the western slopes of the Golan Heights. The theft had fuelled speculation that Morry, a captain in the reserves, might have defected to a neighbouring Arab country.

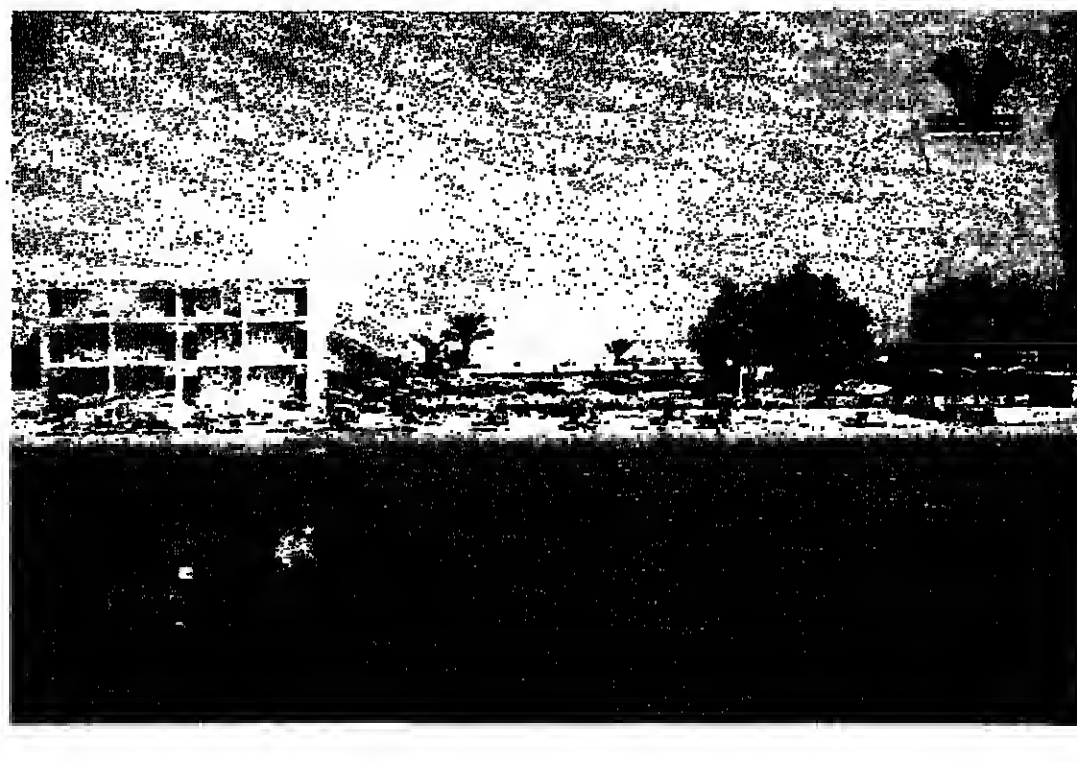
But Avihu Bin Nun, the air force commander, told reporters Friday he believed Morry had intended to commit suicide by crashing the plane. The aircraft was a West German-made twin-engine Doornier-28, a common type of reconnaissance plane. Officials said earlier they believed Morry had personal problems. Newspapers said he had been having marital problems and was not living with his wife. Morry, who was studying for a Ph.D. in physics, reportedly flew over most of the country before disappearing. He "buzzed" his home in the northern city of Haifa and was last seen flying north towards the Lebanon border, newspapers said.

U.N. urges reconciliation in Cyprus

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — The U.N. Security Council has implicitly criticised Turkey for apparently encroaching upon the disputed town of Varosha on Cyprus, and called upon Greek and Turkish Cypriots to work towards reconciliation.



Council President Razali Ismail of Malaysia, in an emergency meeting, read a statement in which the 15 council members urged both sides to use restraint at a time when the situation on the divided island has deteriorated and peace talks are deadlocked.

"The members of the council again call on the parties concerned to refrain, especially at this sensitive stage in the process, from any action or statement that could aggravate the situation," the statement said.



Enjoy

A super weekend in Aqaba

ROOFING & INSULATION CO. LTD. (TASQUEEF)

OPPORTUNITY

**PROFESSIONAL SALES EXECUTIVES,
CONTRACT SITE SUPERVISORS
AND CONTRACT ESTIMATORS**

Tasqueef, a highly respected Saudi Company specialising in roofing, insulation, refractory, scaffolding and fireproofing services to the construction industry is looking to recruit qualified staff for our offices in Jeddah, Riyadh and Al Khobar.

WE HAVE:

- ★ An excellent market reputation.
- ★ Sound financial backing.
- ★ A rapidly growing business.

WE OFFER:

- ★ Progressive career advancement for those with the determination to succeed.
- ★ Attractive employment terms for the right person.
- ★ A chance to be part of a professional management team in a rapidly expanding organization.

WE ARE LOOKING FOR SOMEONE WHO:

- ★ Wants a challenging career rather than just another job.
- ★ Has a sound professional approach to his work.
- ★ Will fit into our organization and be prepared to put the company first and himself second.
- ★ Has a recognisable Academic Qualification, preferably to Degree level in either Mechanical or Civil Engineering.
- ★ Has a proven trade record in our industry.
- ★ Is fluent in both Arabic and English.

Please reply in English enclosing your CV with photograph and telephone contact number to:
THE PERSONNEL DEPARTMENT
Roofing & Insulation Co. Ltd. (TASQUEEF)
P. O. Box 84 Dhahran Airport 31932, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 73111-19

PROGRAMME ONE

15:30.....Koran

15:40.....Programme review

15:45.....Children programme

17:30.....Educational programme

18:00.....News Summary

18:10.....Local programme

19:50.....Programme review

20:30.....News in Arabic

20:35.....Arabic series

21:30.....Programme review

21:50.....Local programme

22:00.....News in Arabic

22:10.....Arabic play

PROGRAMME TWO

17:45.....Champs Elysees

19:00.....News in French

19:15.....Documentary

19:30.....News in Hebrew

20:00.....Joint Account

20:30.....Encounter

21:30.....Classical Music

22:00.....News in English

22:20.....Feature film

PRAYER TIMES

04:47.....Fajr

05:39.....(Sunrise) Dhuhr

12:42.....Dhuhr

16:23.....'Asr

19:40.....Maghrib

21:16.....Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swedish, Tel. 510740

Assembly of God Church, Tel. 632785

St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440

De la Salle Church Tel. 661757

Terrasanta Church Tel. 623666

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541

Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 626543

Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331

Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261

St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751

Armenian International Church Tel. 685326

Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811205

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 815817, 654932

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

A slight drop in temperature and rise in humidity will occur and winds will be northwesterly moderate to fresh, causing dust in desert areas. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate to fresh and seas calm.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Amman

Min./max. temp.

20/31

Aqaba

24/39

Deserts

20/37

Jordan Valley

32/37

Yesterday's high temperatures:

Amman 32, Aqaba 40, Humidity readings: Amman 30 per cent, Aqaba 25 per cent.

ZARQA:

Dr. Hisham Hiyast.....(-)

Khalil pharmacy.....985417

EMERGENCIES

Civil Defence Department.....661111

Civil Defence Immediate.....Rescue.....630341

Civil Defence Emergency.....199

Jahel Amman Maternity.....642362

Matina, J. Amman.....636146

Palatine, Shamsiah.....661714

Shamsiah Hospital.....669151

University Hospital.....845845

Al-Munasher Hospital.....6672279

The Islamic, Abdali.....66612737

Al-Ahli, Abdali.....6661646

Iskafin, Al-Idnashra.....7771013

Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafish.....7751126

Amny, Marja.....891611/15

Queen Alia Hospital.....60224050

Amal Hospital.....614155

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:

Hussein Medical Centre.....813813/32

Khalid Maternity, J. Amn.....642816

Akileh Maternity, J. Amn.....642412

Jahel Amman Maternity.....642362

Matina, J. Amman.....636146

Palatine, Shamsiah.....661714

Shamsiah Hospital.....669151

University Hospital.....845845

Al-Munasher Hospital.....6672279

The Islamic, Abdali.....66612737

Al-Ahli, Abdali.....6661646

Iskafin, Al-Idnashra.....7771013

Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafish.....7751126

Amny, Marja.....891611/15

Queen Alia Hospital.....60224050

Amal Hospital.....614155

HAZRA:

Zarga Govt. Hospital.....09983323

Zarga National Hospital.....09991071

Bu Sina Hospital.....09983732

IRBID:

Princess Basma Hospital.....02775555

Greek Catholic Hospital.....02772275

Ibn Al Nafies Hospital.....02747100

AQABA:

Princess Haya Hospital.....08391411

15:10.....Frankfurt (RJ)

20:40.....Tripoli (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

09:55.....Baghdad (IA)

10:00.....Karachi (add.) (KU)

13:20.....Cairo (MS)

14:00.....Riyadh (SV)

15:35.....Kuwait (KU)

25:10.....Damascus, Paris (AF)

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in fils per kg.

Apples.....700/600

Apricots.....680/500

Bananas.....300/450

Bananas (Minkamasar).....400/300

Beans.....400/300

Cabbage.....130/90

Carrot.....200/150

Cauliflower.....200/150

Cucumbers.....150/100

Cucumbers (large).....70/50

Cucumbers (small).....140/80

Eggs.....400/300

Eggplant.....110/70

Garlic.....2200/3000

Grapes.....300/220

Lebanese.....460/400

Mallow.....80/40

Marrow (large).....100/60

Marrow (small).....280/150

Onion (dry).....380/300

Orange.....380/300

Peaches.....600/550

Pepper (hot).....100/120

Pepper (sweet).....100/120

Sage.....220/180

Sweet melons.....350/300

Tomatoes.....80/40

Watermelon.....300/40

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

08:00.....Aqaba (RJ)

11:40.....Tripoli (RJ)

12:00.....Vienna, Frankfurt (RJ)

12:15.....Amsterdam, New York (RJ)

12:45.....Madrid (RJ)

13:15.....Karachi (add.) (RJ)

13:45.....London (RJ)

13:50.....Rome, Paris (RJ)

13:55.....Geneva, Brussels (RJ)

14:00.....Baghdad (RJ)

20:40.....Karachi (RJ)

20:45.....Bahrain (RJ)

21:00.....Jeddah (RJ)

21:20.....Cairo (RJ)

22:00.....Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)

22:00.....Doha (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

09:15.....Beirut (ME)

11:00.....Baghdad (IA)

National Bloc wins GFJW elections

By Mariam M. Shalabi
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A nine-member alliance of pan-Arab, leftist and independent women Friday swept the elections for the executive committee of the Amman chapter of the General Federation of Jordanian Women (GFJW) dumbfounding all predictions for an Islamic Bloc control over the women's federation.

The "national bloc" won all nine seats on the executive committee of the Amman federation defeating a seemingly strong Islamic Bloc and an independent candidate.

A record number of women turned up to vote in what was seen by observers as one of the "most politicized" elections of the GFJW in its nine-year history.

Of the 238 representatives of 108 women societies, social institutions and clubs as well as individual members in the Amman Governorate, 228 went to the polls Friday.

The high voter turnout was seen by federation members and observers alike as a sign of increased politicization.

"We had two elections today, one for the executive committee and another for the group that will represent Amman at the general conference in August. In both elections we had defined blocs representing various trends of the political and social spectrum. It was the first time that we had such clear-cut and defined differences," said a former member of the Amman executive committee.

Haifa Al Bashir, the two-time president of the Amman executive committee and the national executive committee, called Friday's election "a victory for pluralism."

"The elections today proved that women can organize themselves into effective blocs and achieve desired results. Today is a victory for all women in Jordan," Bashir told the Jordan Times.

Lutfieh Zneili, head of the Islamic Bloc in the elections, said she had "no comment"

about the results of Friday's elections.

The election for the Amman delegation at the general conference was also won in a heated race by the National Bloc in its entirety.

As in the race for the executive committee, the election of the general congress delegation, which is made up of four separately elected members and the executive committee president, amounted to a race between two blocs and two independent candidates.

The four National Bloc candidates won the four seats assigned to the delegation. While the bloc took the seats in an overall landslide, the difference between the candidate receiving the least number of votes from the National Bloc (Rabab Nabulsi — 91 votes) and the most popular member of the Islamic Bloc (Lutfieh Zneili — 90 votes) was one vote.

"The race was very close because a certain number of women adhered totally to the blocs and others divided their votes between National Bloc members, Islamic Bloc members and the independent candidates," said a federation member involved in the counting of votes.

Friday's results, which spelled victory for a group of women who were described by federation officials as "relatively unknown" personalities, marked what women activists called "a landmark" in the federation's history.

"The total victory of the National Bloc marks a new stage in cooperation between pluralist women forces in the Kingdom," said a federation member affiliated with the Jordan People's Democratic Party.

While distinct differences were visible between the women in the National Bloc and women in the Islamic Bloc, observers say that an approximately 50 women were not strictly aligned to either bloc.

An independent observer estimated that the number of women which "stuck" to either bloc were very close in number.

ber. "About 90 women stuck consistently to the National Bloc while 86 consistently voted for the Islamic Bloc," she said. "These figures varied slightly in each of the two elections, but they are approximately correct," she added.

In what seems to have been a personal "feud" between the federation members representing the national line, two candidates, formerly affiliated with the National Bloc ran as independents.

National Bloc members said that a decision had been made by the majority of its members to present a list of women that represented different independent, pan-Arab and leftist views to make the bloc acceptable to the largest possible number of women.

"As a result, some very capable women were not on our list, but you can't include everyone, one always has to make concessions," said one candidate who won in the executive committee race.

While no exact figures are available, federation officials estimate that there are 6,000 members in the Amman branch of the federation.

The "real test" of bloc strength or political strength will be tested at the polls in August when the federation's eight municipal committees meet along with a still unknown number of independent members to elect the national executive committee of the federation.

Observers say that the outcome of the elections in August will depend on the results of an ongoing two-month-old struggle between federation members and the Ministry of Social Development over the interpretation of article 12 of the federation's charter.

The former executive committee, which was dissolved by the ministry in May, is awaiting the results of legal charges filed against the Minister of Social Development on a case that: 1) the executive committee was released of its duties and replaced by a temporary non-elected committee illegally and 2) that the interpretation of

article 12 by the Ministry of Social Development (which outlines electoral distribution) is incorrect and allows for disproportional representation.

Anxiously awaiting the results of the conflict between the ministry and federation members, long time members believe that the decision will be detrimental to the federation's national orientation.

"If the interpretation stays as it is, the religious forces in the federation will be represented on a disproportional scale at the general conference and, as a result, on the national executive committee," said one federation member.

Representatives of the Islamic trend in the federation said that they felt the present interpretation was "fair" and had no further comments.

The results of Friday's election for the executive committee of the GFJW are as follows: Hiam Abu Ghazaleh 134, Hind Faraj 133, Nuha Masita 127, Haya Taher 122, Najah Kalaideh 121, Haifa Jamal 119, Ramzieh Kheimer 115, Amal Salem 114, and Rihab Nazzal 113.

The nine members elected Hiam Abu Ghazaleh as president, Haifa Jamal as vice-president, Haya Taher as secretary, and Rihab Nazzal as treasurer.

The results of the Islamic Bloc were: Fatmeh Farhan 100, Sawzan Keilani 97, Ismat Faruka 95, Leila Shamseddin 94, Suad Saqaa 93, Hajar Al Omari 91, Kifah Masri 91, Dina Hamdan 90, Huda Abul Haj 89.

Suad Obeidat, an independent candidate won 9 votes.

The results of the vote for the Amman delegates for the general conference were: Janet Mufti 106, Safa Qassus 104, Suhaila Bahlawan 97, and Rabab Nabulsi 91.

The results for the Islamic Bloc were: Lutfieh Zneili 90, Fatmeh Farhan 87, Fadwa Abu Ghaida 86, Lina Kannash 81.

Independent candidates Sahira Nabulsi and Naila Rashdan received 47 and 43 votes respectively.

ACC countries to boost trade

AMMAN (Petra) — Ministers responsible for economy, trade and supply in the four-member Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) countries ended a four-day meeting in Amman on Thursday by agreeing to prepare lists of 34 national products to be totally exempted from customs duty and other fees when traded within the ACC countries.

The ministers, representing Jordan, Iraq, Yemen and Egypt, said they would set up a special committee to follow up the implementation of the agreement.

A statement at the end of the meeting here said that the four ministers would set up a team of experts to prepare a working paper designed to boost trade activities among the four-member states and decided to exempt the products of their countries from any fees for their participation in international trade fairs held in any of the ACC group.

In a move to boost trade, the four ministers studied the prospect of allowing each member country to sell national products worth up to \$5 million during trade fairs and to exempt them from paying any fees.

Lower House hears government's reply to criticism on unemployment

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Lower House of Parliament convenes today to hear the government's reply to charges and proposals by deputies over the issue of unemployment. Minister of Labour Qaseem Obeidat is expected to deliver a speech to the chamber in which he will outline the government's thinking and steps on solving the problem.

The House held its third and last session to discuss unemployment on Wednesday evening.

The first session was held on June 27, during which Obeidat reported to the House on the government's policy towards the issue.

Obeidat's statement came under attack by many deputies for failing to reduce unemployment, and then solve the problem completely.

During Wednesday's session, deputy Leith Shbeilat said he saw no solution in merely levelling accusations against the government's asking it to quit or calling for the formation of a new government.

"It has become clear that the forces of change have so far failed to make the necessary adjustment in the wrong policy of the regime," he said. "Instead, the forces of change have turned into the biggest supporter of the prevalent order."

Shbeilat said that unemployment was only a phenomenon of a deeper crisis that hit the country and for which "the leaders of the

country are responsible."

"The country is living a leadership vacuum," he said, adding that the country needs a leadership that not only occupies seats but people's hearts.

Shbeilat said that Jordan needs a "virtuous leadership that nurses the centres of reform and not the centres of corruption."

He said that Jordanians have turned their agricultural lands into recreational country houses where they enjoy themselves after a week of corrupting people's affairs and interests and where they keep a class of people below all classes," referring to farmhands who are mainly Egyptian.

"Why should the Islamists sit with the authority that deprived people of many of their rights?" asked Shbeilat, an independent Islamist deputy for Amman.

"What did the executive authority give to the people for the people's deputies to negotiate with?" he asked.

"Why give the regime the legitimacy it seeks without concessions for the people?"

Also addressing the House was Maslin Brotherhood deputy Youssef Khasawneh (Irbid). He blamed the country's economic crisis, that led to unemployment, on people's lack of loyalty to the country.

"Many people in this country suffered from restrictions and limitations that put an end to their ambitions," he charged.

Khasawneh said he believed the private sector should have

been allowed to prosper. "This cannot be achieved through enacting laws and regulations, but through restructuring the system and choosing the right loyal people (for the right places)."

Deputy Ziad Abu Mahfouz (independent Islamist, Zarqa) blamed unemployment on corruption, mismanagement, nepotism bribery, sacking of employees for security reasons, the increased number of graduates and the influx of guest workers.

He proposed for tackling unemployment, reducing the cost of agricultural products through custom incentives, the creation of agricultural villages in the desert, distribution of state land and encouraging livestock breeding.

He also called on the government to work on regaining Jordanian expatriates' confidence in order to encourage their investment in the Kingdom.

Deputy Atef Btoush (Islamist, Karak) called on all parties to the economic process to each shoulder its responsibility in solving the problem. He called for a national conference on economy and unemployment.

Btoush also called for a number of measures that included reopening money-exchange shops, facilitating the conditions for issuing drivers' licences, distributing state land, retiring all employees with more than 25 years of service and allowing government employees to take leave without pay while employed abroad.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Open studio and workshop for artist Samia Zaru displaying paintings, sculptures and hand-painted fabrics. Location: off 2nd Circle, opposite Rosenthal (9:30-1:30 and 3:30-6:30).
- ★ Plastic art exhibition by Rudaina and Ruba Hadidat at the Housing Bank Complex hall.
- ★ Exhibition of paintings by ten Iraqi artists at the Jordan Plastic Art Association Gallery — tel. No. 699914.

JERASH FESTIVAL

- ★ Concerts by the Jordan Armed Forces Band (6:00 - 7:00 p.m.), a local folk troupe (7:00 - 8:00) and a Yemeni folk troupe (8:30 - 9:30 p.m.) at the Forum.
- ★ Poets and poetry at Artemis Steps (7:00 - 9:00 p.m.)
- ★ Concerts by Jordan National Folklore Troupe (7:30 - 9:00) and Yarmouk troupe for Arabic music (9:30 - 11:00) at the South Theatre.

Jordan, Syria work on unifying construction rules

AMMAN (Petra) — A housing units, set up a specialised committee to study the needs of poor districts, exchange expertise and information related to construction work and housing and the environment.

Hiyasat said that the committee would jointly consider legislations related to the construction sector in Syria and Jordan with a view to reaching consensus on unified sets of regulations. It would exchange information related to designs of roads linking Syria with Jordan and future planning in this respect.

Other questions discussed by the two sides, according to Hiyasat, included specifications and standards for road construction work, traffic lights and maintenance.

He said that the committee would embark on a joint effort to find cheap methods for building

CBJ chief details violations leading to Petra Bank failure

AMMAN (Petra) — The prime responsibility for the crisis that led to the liquidation of the Petra Bank lies with the bank management and nearly 90 per cent of this responsibility lies squarely on the bank's general manager himself, according to Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) Governor Mohammad Saeed Nabulsi.

"Investigations revealed that the bank's board of directors was totally unaware of the bank's deteriorating conditions and did not follow up the numerous violations," Nabulsi said in a television interview Wednesday evening.

"Bank officials, who had to implement orders given by the management in violation of the laws, will also be asked to account for their action in the court of law which will define each person's responsibility," he said.

Nabulsi said that the majority of the employees could not be held responsible for the deteriorating situation because they were not aware of what was happening and transactions did not enter any books.

Nabulsi pointed out that investigations revealed that most of the 650 employees cannot be held responsible simply because they were not aware of the major violations of the law on control of currency regulations.

He said that bank auditors played a major role in causing the crisis and the CBJ has solid proof that the auditors' report about the client's funds over the past

three years did not reflect the reality and the genuine accounts in the bank.

Nabulsi said that the CBJ had to delay taking action with regard to Petra Bank simply because the Kingdom was over the past months going through critical and dangerous economic circumstances, the dinar's exchange rates lacked stability and the monetary crisis was at its peak.

Before taking the final decision to liquidate the bank, the CBJ had to follow certain procedures to end all issues related to Petra Bank, realise the depth of the problem even though the CBJ had very strong evidence about the fraudulent actions and violations committed by the bank management.

Nabulsi said that the monetary crisis in Jordan in the past year was responsible for flushing out Petra Bank's mismanagement and fraudulent actions because the bank failed to supply the CBJ with the required amount of monetary reserves.

These, according to law, amount to 35 per cent of any bank's capital reserves.

According to Nabulsi, Petra Bank failed to supply the amounts because its coffers were empty although, according to its statements, it possessed JD 160 million in foreign currency.

Nabulsi described the recent measures taken by the National Economic Security Committee as tantamount to declaring Petra Bank bankrupt, but "the committee also decided to take mea-

sures to safeguard the rights of the clients and account holders and depositors."

"One has to bear in mind the major and speedy action taken by the CBJ which provided the liquidity," he said.

"The CBJ had to take a decision after considering information provided in the auditors' reports about the bank's assets and liabilities, which exceed JD 200 million, and to balance this against the amounts which the CBJ can safely provide for the liquidity," the CBJ chief said.

He said that the CBJ provided more than JD 200 million in cash in order to provide protection to the client's rights and to safeguard the Jordanian banking system's credibility.

He said that the Jordan Gulf Bank has a deficit of JD 27 million, but the nature of its problem is different from that of Petra Bank because it stems from mismanagement and delay in taking proper actions when needed while Petra Bank's collapse came as a direct result of criminal actions and illegal proceedings combined with poor management.

"It will be possible to deal with the Jordan Gulf Bank by restructuring its capital and by applying what is called re-floating of the bank after proper measures had been taken to prepare for this step," Nabulsi pointed out.

Nabulsi said that the Jordan Syrian Bank is a small bank whose operations were character-

ised by weakness from the very beginning due largely to organisational issues and failure to abide by the original agreement which brought this bank into being.

"The CBJ will think of a proper measure to handle this problem and could resort to liquidating the bank and restructuring it in a manner that would exclude any Syrian participation," he said.

Nabulsi also talked about the Jordanian branch of the Lebanese-based Mashrek Bank.

He said that this bank had been encountering major difficulties and its case is being handled by the Central Bank of Lebanon; its branches in the Arab World are being liquidated.

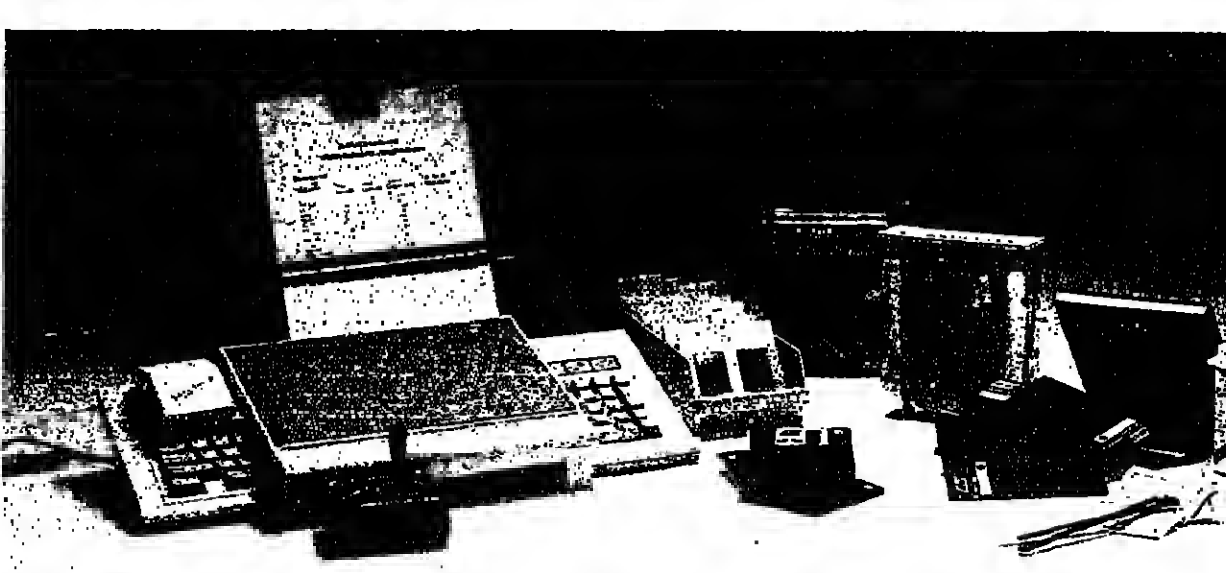
In Jordan the situation is different because the CBJ has discovered that the bank's losses do not justify liquidation and therefore the problem can be contained and overcome.

Asked about the fate of the Petra Bank's employees, who are now facing a grim future, he said that the CBJ seeks to provide protection to these employees and is seeking to employ most of them in other banks.

The CBJ will also try to solve the problem by creating a new bank for exports and investments which will also absorb some of these employees.

Nabulsi praised the new "companies' law" in Jordan which was responsible for charging the Petra Bank board with the responsibility for its collapse.

Perfect Accessories for the Total Solution



Comcent understands your needs when thinking accessories and consumables.

Visit our showroom. Browse through the full range and pick up items that meet your requirements at affordable prices.

Comcent, the perfect solution for all your computer accessories.



Comcent Trading and Contracting Co. 3rd circle, Prince Mohammad St. Phone 644246/7

WANTED

A FEMALE TECHNICIAN FOR ELECTROLYSIS OF FACIAL HAIR.

PLEASE CONTACT
TEL 647374

An International Construction Co. requires PROJECT MANAGER

For water collection, pumping and distribution project in the Republic of Yemen. The work includes the construction of a mountain access road, installation of pipelines and construction of pumping stations over a period of 2½ years. The site is in a remote mountains area 190 km from Aden.

The successful candidate should be a degree holder in Civil Engineering with 20 years experience in major contracting companies. Experience in rock blasting, excavation, pipelaying & electro-mechanical installations is necessary.

Due to the remote location of the site, forward planning, initiative, and strong leadership are pre-requisites, as the Project Manager will have full responsibility and authority for completion of the job within budget and programme and for all other aspects of management of the project, accountable to the Area General Manager.

Post offers attractive income & fringe benefits.

Detailed C.V. to be sent to:
Manager of Personnel Administration
P.O. Box 61092
15110 Amaraoussion
Athens - Greece

Foreigners make music on the streets of Tokyo

By Tomi Minchart
The Associated Press

TOKYO — A hundred Japanese obnoxious to the giant flashing video screens around Shibuya Square listen intently as Hank Hirsh's alto saxophone dances around "the sunny side of the street."

Afterwards, spectators approach shyly and drop 1,000-yen (\$6.70) bills into his open case. Hirsh bows, thanks them in Japanese and launches into a jazzy "autumn leaves" with bassist Fukuro Kazuya.

"Down on the street, I make the same money I'd make in a regular gig, but it's much more fun," said Hirsh, 39, originally from Chicago but now living in Kyoto. "I'm communicating with people... The people who like it stop and listen."

Hirsh, who also plays in nightclubs and teaches saxophone in Kyoto, later said he split 340,000 yen (\$2,270) with his bassist for six days on the streets of Tokyo. He is one of hundreds of Western musicians, performance artists, jugglers, mimes, puppeteers and street merchants drawn to Japan's largest city by its generous tippers and relatively safe streets.

There are risks, including gangsters demanding payoffs from performers on their turf, and an occasional belligerent drunk. Competing Western performers sometimes inform on each other, although the police generally leave them alone if they don't create a disturbance.

"But in Japan, there is a certain respect for the body," said David Findlay of Vancouver, Canada, a mime playing on a

street in the Shinjuku entertainment area. "There's no way I'd do this in Canada — they'd treat me too badly."

Findlay, in whiteface, had a sign saying: "I am a pantomime. Please use your hands to move me freely." Giggling teen-age girls moved his arms and legs into funny positions. Others whooped in delight when he pointed at them, silently inviting them to manipulate him.

"He is very tough," said one admiring Japanese man. "We cannot do this."

Findlay, 36, said foreigners "can make incredibly good money in Japan if they're any good. It's the fact that you're a foreigner. If a Japanese were doing it, they'd get a different reaction."

Japanese do perform on Tokyo's streets, but usually not

for money. Dozens of rock bands play side-by-side on a crowded street near Yoyogi park, and techno-agers in graced-back hair, black leather and sunglasses dance to 1950s music on boom boxes. Saxophonists, trombonists and conga players practise jazz riffs and rhythms under bridges and in parks, but most seem to be playing for the sheer joy of it.

Some street Westerners are supplementing their incomes as English teachers; others are gathering money to continue travels around the world.

Many live in rooming houses that cost the equivalent of about \$400 a month, inhabited by other denizens of the low-end Western subculture in Japan. These include teachers, writers, drifters, occasional smugglers and scores of North American and European women who work as night-

club hostesses, earning 3,000 yen (\$20) an hour to pour drinks and talk sweetly to businessmen.

Street Westerners sell everything from jewellery and mass-produced oil paintings to battery-powered panda bears.

"I tell people I'm an art student and I painted these in Paris, these in Hawaii," said a young Canadian woman selling pictures of horses, landscapes and seascapes in Shinjuku. She declined to give her name. "The real sad thing is I have a degree in art history."

In the fashionable shopping area of Harajuku, freelance journalist Bill Balfour of Sheffield, England, was selling Soviet army watches, pins and patches he bought during a recent reporting trip to Sakhalin.

He was dressed in a Soviet army uniform, and his pitch was, "excuse me, sir, do you know

what time it is in Moscow?" People admired the watches, but Balfour acknowledged the fact had not caught on.

The street is turf to the Japanese underworld, known as Yakuza, and Westerners say the Yakuza demand between 3,000 yen (\$20) and 10,000 yen (\$66) per week, depending on the area.

"It's worth it to pay the mafia," Findlay said. "If someone (a competing performer) is in my patch, I don't have to do anything about it."

But other performers say the Yakuza have pushed them around, kicked their instruments, even thrown fireworks in an effort to get their payoff.

Grego, a one-man band and puppeteer from Northern California who asked that his last name not be used because he

doesn't have a legal working permit, said one Yakuza who was refused payment called in the police.

"The cops said, 'we're sorry, but please go home, you can come back (to perform) later,'" said Grego. "The Japanese spectators stood back and watched... but everyone cheered when the Yakuza left. They love seeing us back the Yakuza, but they can't stick their necks out."

Findlay said he was performing in Shinjuku one night when a "very large Japanese man rammed me."

"Another guy stood up for me, but the big guy slammed him into a shop door," he said. "The crowd attacked the big guy, pummeled him, kicked him in the head... afterwards people shook my hand."

A spokesman for the metropolitan police said people who block pedestrians or traffic face a maximum penalty of three months in jail or a 50,000-yen (\$333) fine. He said performers have to get advance permission from local police, although police "normally allow festivals." No licence for performing is necessary.

Hirsh said a bagpipe player in Ueno park once accused Hirsh of taking his place and brought in the police.

"About 500 people were waiting for us to play," he said. "This one radical guy got the people together and they were booing the police. It was a powerful thing — I was amazed to see it in Japan."

"We played one tune, took in 1,500 yen (\$10) and the police escorted us to the train."

Social welfare work — a cornerstone for the poor

By Sahar Qarreen
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — In this phase of ever increasing economic burdens, inflation and unemployment, social welfare work has become a cornerstone for bettering the lifestyle of unprivileged stratum of society.

A recent survey by the Ministry of Social Affairs estimated that people living below the poverty line make up 20 per cent of the population in Jordan. This alarming percentage warrants more and more social welfare programmes to cater to the poor in a bid to alleviate the social repercussions of the economic crisis.

A pioneer in this field is the Queen Alia Jordan Social Welfare Fund (QAJSWF) which is engaged in fieldwork and welfare programmes ranging from social and educational programmes to vocational training, with a concentration in the rural areas.

Established in 1977, the fund played a major role in improving family income and strengthening the role of the woman as an essential partner in the development process, according to the fund's Chairperson Princess Basma Bint Talal.

Princess Basma, an advocate of social welfare development, said that the fund's main objective was to resurrect a number of now-moribund handicrafts of great historical and cultural values.

Through that objective, the QAJSWF achieved a dual objective: creating jobs for poor families and reinstating the once flourishing handicrafts trade which reflects the

heritage of the Kingdom.

In its annual report, the QAJSWF adopted several aims including improving the standard of living of the less fortunate by assisting them in developing their skills or acquiring new skills. It also aims at sharing data and information on all aspects of social work with all institutions and individuals interested in social welfare both in Jordan and the Arab World. Much importance is placed on the implementation of a well defined population policy in conformity with the present economic conditions and in anticipation of Jordan's future needs.

The annual report classifies the functions of the fund into eight categories:

- **Social Service Centres:** which are targeted to serve women and children, from nursery and kindergarten to the age of fifteen. The fund's work plan includes establishing fifty such centres in different areas of the Kingdom. 24 such centres have already been set up.
- **Child Welfare Programmes:** which is among one of the fund's most important areas of social work. These programmes give a special attention to children to enable them to grow into fully mature responsible and healthy adults. The accomplishments of the 1989 programme were the furnishing of the Karak Kindergarten Centre and enlarging the kindergarten at the Mafrq Centre as well as furnishing it with all necessary equipment. The fund also organised visits to the kindergarten teachers to exchange ideas, ex-



Princess Basma during a visit to one of the fund's day-care centres

perience and education methods. The fund runs 74 kindergartens, nurseries, clubs, nutrition centres which benefit 2669 children in several areas.

- **Women's Welfare and Rehabilitation Programmes:** The fund gave women special attention in line with its belief that women play a very important role in a society that needs the efforts of all its members in order to push forward the development process. Women were provided with basic skills and education programmes enabling them to play a productive role in society. The fund offered eight education programmes in which the number of participants reached 39,399 women, in addition to 12 training courses which were joined by 1,570 participants.
- **Productive Industries:** The fund's efforts during 1989 were focused on setting up developmental and social productive industries. The projects which are expected to reach the productive stage in

1990 were designed to provide job opportunities for women, thus enabling them to contribute to their families' incomes and participate in the developmental process.

- **Rural Development Programmes:** Due to economic difficulties, the fund concentrated on rural areas to help families in achieving agricultural development, family self-sufficiency and family participation in community development. Thus, it provided farmers and needy families with the means to develop agriculture and improve their income, such as setting up plastic greenhouses by donating 7,000 fruit seedlings and 3500 other seedlings and other facilities. The fund has also organised literacy classes and special lessons, in addition to setting up Al Nuzha Centre which is equipped with general practice and dentistry clinics used by 8450 patients in 1989.
- **Special Education Programmes and rehabilitation for the handicapped:** have been a

major concern of the fund since its establishment in 1977. A pioneering field study held by the fund to investigate the extent of the problem in Jordan helped it to develop effective programmes in this field.

The fund in cooperation with international and Arab organisations set up and equipped four centres in Amman, Karak, Irbid and Zarqa.

Two experimental special education classes for slow learners were opened in 1989 in addition to a number of classes opened in 1987.

Turning the page to a new decade and feeling proud of its achievements during the last thirteen years, the fund aspires to expand more and more in its contribution to the social development process in the Kingdom. Its work in the nineties will be focused on creating new jobs, especially for women, to help in minimising the unemployment problem and thus contributing in bettering the future of the country.



ENJOY A LITTLE LUXURY EVERY DAY

Cussons Imperial Leather Soap, traditionally made English Soap.

Superior quality soap that refreshes day after day.

A booming business for circumcision king

By Ayse Sarioglu
Reuters

ANKARA — Turkey's school summer holidays are boom time for circumcision King Kemal Ozkan.

"Each year about one million boys come of circumcision age in Turkey," 58-year-old Paramedic Ozkan said.

Up to 20 boys a day will pass through his private Istanbul clinic with proud parents paying as much as half a million lira (\$200) for the privilege.

"Few of them are taken to hospitals because the hospitals are full and mostly equipped for major surgeries," he said.

Circumcision is one of the most strictly observed religious practices in secular, though predominantly Muslim, Turkey.

Muslim families, 99 per cent of Turkey's 55 million population, regard circumcision as the first step to manhood. Turkish doctors consider circumcision a hygienic and prophylactic practice.

Dr. Demokan Erol, chief urologist in an Ankara Hospital, said: "research shows that in communities where early-age circumcision is widely practised, cancers of the male genitalia have a very low incidence."

"I say the best age is from five to nine."

Why is the operation, usually performed without anaesthetic, not done on babies at birth?

"The boys must be able to remember the occasion," said Ozkan, with 58,000 circumcisions to his credit in his 26-year career.

And what an occasion it is for Turkish boys as families indulge their every whim and shower them with presents before the painful but blessedly brief surgery.

However, poor the family, all Turkish boys preparing for circumcision wear an embroidered satin pillow box hat and sash.

Though painkillers are rarely

part of the ritual, each boy is accompanied by an adult male comforter to give him courage as he faces the knife.

The male companion or kive assumes lifelong obligations to the boy, much like a Christian godfather.

The skills of Ozkan and the hygienic conditions under which he performs are not mirrored in much of rural Turkey.

In the villages paramedics have rarely had special training in circumcision. Often the operation is performed by handymen whose sole claim to proficiency is inherited from their fathers.

There are abundant stories of botched circumcisions leading to severed urethras requiring corrective surgery, infections and even deaths.

"We hear of the occasional death occurring from circumcisions made by untrained people," Ozkan said.

"Some do not heed rules of hygiene, do not have modern instruments and can cause serious physical or psychological damage to a child."

Though the Ministry of Health has no exact figures of deaths or mutilations caused by amateur practitioners, complaints from around the country have spurred government this year to launch a free, nationwide circumcision service.

The ministry will provide surgeons, paramedics and nurses to offer supervised health care in each of Turkey's 73 provinces during the main circumcision season.

"Unfortunately some of the government-appointed medics are not properly taught to circumcise but a brief training can make them proficient in modern methods," Ozkan said.

Will the free government circumcision service be bad for business? Ozkan doesn't think so.

JORDAN MARKET PLACE

THE PROFESSIONALS ALWAYS CHOOSE THE RELIABLE

PACKING, AIR FREIGHT, FORWARDING, DOOR-TO-DOOR SERVICES AND DELIVERIES, CUSTOMS CLEARANCE, TICKETS AND RESERVATIONS.

AMIN KAWAR & SONS
TEL: 604676 604686
P.O. BOX 7806 AMMAN

CROWN INT'L EST.

packing, shipping, forwarding, storing, clearing, door-to-door service

Agents all over the world
Tel: 884898, Fax: 898822
The 22225 BESMCO JO
P.O. Box 528467 AMMAN JORDAN

EASTERN

PACKING, DOOR-TO-DOOR SERVICES, INTERNATIONAL FORWARDING, AIR & SEA FREIGHT

TEL: 621 775 FAX: 656 270
TLX: 23 0 23 POB: 815 408
AMMAN-JORDAN

المؤسسة العالمية للخدمات المتخصصة

UNIVERSAL SPECIALISED SERVICES EST.

Specialists in Packing, Air & Sea freight forwarding, Storage & Insurance, House - hold effects insured by Jordan French Insurance Co.

Valuable, Commodities
Please call Tel: 610641
P.O. Box 5408 Amman.
1st Circle Jabel Amman

LOOKING FOR A PLACE TO RENT IN WEST AMMAN

CALL SOHA AT

Saudi Real Estate 687821/22

& Here Now The Minaret REAL ESTATE

real estate "R" US

Just Call Us
Sales Dept. 833479
Rental Dept. 833478

STUDIO HAIG

Professional Quality in 1 Hour Service
Develop your colour film at our shop and get:

- JUMBO photo size 30% larger
- Free enlargements 20 x 30 cm

Shimonsat Opp. Grindlays Bank Phone: (04042) Sweden Tel: 823891

ITT

Television & Video's

duty Free Is available at special prices

Wafa Dajani & Sons Co.
Makheh Street Tel: 824658

RESTAURANT CHINA

The first & best Chinese Restaurant in Jordan

1st Circle, Jabel Amman, near Athlyyah Girls School

Take-away service
Open daily 12:00-3:30 p.m.
6:30-Midnight
Tel: 638666

慕堂餐廳 MANDARIN Chinese Restaurant

The only typical Chinese cuisine in Amman. Chinese Flaming pot is available

Take away available
Open daily 12:00 - 15:30 18:00 - 23:30

Wadi Sagra Road - near Traffic Bridge
Amman, Jordan
Tel: 661922

CHEN'S CHINESE RESTAURANT

Mecca Street, Yarmouk Engineers' Housing Estate, near Kilo Supermarket

Mongolian Barbeque for Lunch Friday only

Tel: 818214
Come and taste our specialties
Open daily 12:00 - 3:30 p.m.
6:30 - Midnight

PEKING RESTAURANT

AUTHENTIC CHINESE CUISINE

elegant colorful atmosphere

moderate prices
shemisan...tel: 660250 (closed on Mondays)

Kashmiri Restaurant

FIRST CLASS INDIAN RESTAURANT

Special Executive Lunches available

Open Daily 12:30 - 3:30 pm 7:30 - 11:30 pm

After the Philadelphia Hotel Towards 3rd circle
Tel: 659519 659520

Dine & Dance Nightly to Live Entertainment Variety of Music

Res: 665121

BELLY DANCING

LOBBY LOUNGE

AL SAREEL

DAILY PIANO ENTERTAINMENT

NIGHTCLUB & Restaurant

folkloric troupes, ballet dancer, luxurious dinner

Singing — Dancing and Fun

COMMODORE

MIDDLE EAST

Tel: 665186 - 667159 From 10 p.m.

The First Class Hotel in Amman that has a Kitchenette in every room...

DAROTEL

Amman - Tel: 668193
P.O. Box 9403 - Fax 602434
Telex 23888 DAROTEL JO
Ideal Residence For Exoatriates and Businessmen

MOVING?

Let Aramex Air Cargo take care of the works, Door to Door.

Call the friendly professionals on 660507 or 660508

ARAMEX AIR CARGO

By Nur Sati
Special to the Jordan Times

In 1987 Jordan, for the first

Over one million people around the world with all types of learning disabilities have taken part in special Olympic programs. "Jordan has been an active member since 1986, helping the mentally disabled to develop their physical skills, display and improve their talents, as well as to strengthen their character and fulfil their human potential through sports training and competitions in the Olympic tradition," Salem said.

"If everything goes smoothly we probably should be able to get number two," Liu said Thursday through an interpreter.

lova, has risen not only in the rankings but also in the estimation of those who had doubted Vicano and 10th-ranked Conchita Martinez are much more at home on slow clay.

--	--

SEATTLE, Washington (R) — Robert Daniels retained his World Boxing Association (WBA) junior heavyweight title Thursday with a unanimous points decision over fellow American Craig Bodzianowski in a slow-paced, 12-round bout. Bodzianowski, who lost his right foot in a motorcycle accident six years ago, now fights wearing a prosthesis. His leg was amputated just above the ankle in 1984. He started boxing again the following year. Daniels, fighting at 188½ pounds (85.5 kilogrammes), connected with solid shots to the head throughout the fight but was unable to knock down the 190 pound (86.18 kilogramme) challenger. Bodzianowski, his left eye swollen shut, said he was hampered after the second round by sore ribs. The 29-year-old challenger said he had been suffering from pains in his right rib cage for two months. The judges scored the fight 119-110, 118-109 and 118-109. It was the first title defence for the 21-year-old champion.

round Wimbledon defeat earlier this summer.

the Philadelphia
el. 663100 Amman - Jordan

شركة التجارة الوطنية ش.م

تأسست في سنة ١٩٥٠ م - ١٣٧٢ هـ
 رأس المال : ٦٤٥.٠٨٣ - ٦٤٥.٠٨٣ جنيهات - ٦٤٥.٠٨٣ جنيهات

Tel. 663100 Amman - Jordan

North's pass and East's takeout double, however, South was no longer sure whose hand it was and

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) All sorts of opportunities are now present for you to get fellow

**"If we invest our life's savings,
in 20 years we'll have enough
money to pay this month's bills."**

Yesterday's Jumble: FIORD INEPT, MODERN NUMBER
Answer: When the ship is in the harbor, the men in port might be this—"PROMINENT"

1 Down	35 Cut it out!	50 Experienced	58 "My — is life
2 Fight	37 Twist	52 Art item	59 ... (Bust)
3 In addition	41 Trot easily	54 It. town	60 Despot
4 Tare	44 Ump's kin	65 Violent	61 Czech river
5 Heavenly	48 Violins for	outbreak	62 Earthlore
hitter?	short	56 Siam visitor	65 Dem.'s ...

Delors says Soviets need Western help

MOSCOW (AP) — The Soviet Union's economy needs Western help and President Mikhail Gorbachev may know by October what sort and how much help to expect, European Commission President Jacques Delors said Friday.

Delors, on his first official visit to Moscow, told reporters that experts from European Community (EC) headquarters in Brussels would visit Moscow in August to prepare a report on the Soviet economy, reforms and aid prospects.

The report is due to be completed by late October, before an EC summit in Rome.

Gorbachev, after talks with Delors Thursday, declared his perestroika reforms had reached a "critical moment" and appealed for Western economic support, saying it would benefit all mankind.

"We need to see right now real fruits of the realisation that perestroika is not only our business. It concerns all of us, it is in the interests of the whole world," Gorbachev said.

Delors, in his remarks Friday, said Gorbachev and Soviet Prime Minister Nikolai Ryzhkov were committed to market-oriented reforms to revive the crippled economy.

"They are now convinced that the march towards a market economy will be the best way of resolving the imbalances present in the Soviet economy," he said.

EC leaders announced at a summit last month that they would consider financial aid for Moscow, but would wait for the report on the Soviet economy by the commission, the EC's executive arm.

Delors said the Soviet Union "needs at least technical assistance."

He said he was struck by Gorbachev's grasp of the principles of market economics. "He knows what he is talking about."

"I think that by the end of October we shall know the content of reforms and the way in which they have been received," he said.

The EC visit was largely exploratory and Delors did not want to draw conclusions about the Soviet economy before the commission's study had been completed. But he said he was concerned that individual Soviet republics would create their own currencies.

Some Soviet republics are increasingly asserting their autonomy from Moscow but Delors said he believed monetary policy should be under central government control.

Ryzhkov is reviewing price and other reforms proposed earlier this year but not implemented due to opposition from the public and members of parliament.

The reforms, involving price rises for basic commodities, sparked panic buying and threatened Ryzhkov's political future.

Delors said his visit's main purpose was to open a dialogue with the Soviet authorities. The EC wants to set up an office in Moscow, but its foreign affairs commissioner Frans Andriessen said it was hard to find suitable premises.

The EC chief said last month's EC summit in Dublin and the summit in Houston, Texas, earlier this month of leaders of the seven major Western industrialised nations showed that no one wished to isolate Soviet Union.

The so-called Group of Seven (G-7) leaders said they were prepared to help Soviet economic reforms but they also withheld any possible financial aid until they had seen a report on the country's economy due to be submitted by the end of the year.

The G-7 study group is separate from the EC's and will be led by the International Monetary Fund (IMF). It is due to meet in New York Saturday, international financial sources said.

BIS report shows rising bank claims

BASEL, Switzerland (AP) — Claims by Western commercial banks expanded by 9.8 per cent on Eastern Europe last year and by 18.4 per cent on the Soviet Union, according to a new survey.

The Bank of International Settlements (BIS) survey said the banks' claims — including loans plus accrued interest — on Eastern Europe went up by \$3.3 billion during the July-December period to \$96 billion following a \$5.3 billion increase in the first half.

Claims on the Soviet Union stood at \$43.2 billion at the end of the year, rising by \$1.9 billion in the second half after increasing by \$4.8 billion in the first half. Undisbursed credit commitments also continued to expand.

At the same time, the Soviet Union drew down its deposits with the reporting Western banks by \$1.3 billion, according to the survey.

The other major Eastern European borrowers during the second half of 1989 were East Germany at \$800 million and Czechoslovakia at \$700 million. Claims on East Germany totalled \$17 billion and on Czechoslovakia were \$5.4 billion at the end of the year.

Claims on Hungary totalled \$11.9 billion, up \$100 million, and were \$10 billion on Poland, down \$200 million.

Lending to Third World countries — excluding OPEC members — dropped by \$9.2 billion to \$305.6 billion. Of these, claims on Latin American countries declined by \$7.7 billion to \$176.1 billion.

Analysts see job losses ushering in U.S. recession

WASHINGTON (R) — A mounting toll of job losses in U.S. manufacturing industries may soon spread to the service sector and make the world's largest economy more vulnerable to recession, analysts say.

Hundreds of thousands of Americans in basic businesses from carmaking to metalworking have lost their jobs in the past year and that is slowly spreading fear among consumers who fuel expansion through their purchases.

"It's all part of a process in which economic activity seems to be grinding slowly to a halt," commented David Jones, chief economist with Aubrey Lanston and Co. in New York.

Cautious consumers rein in spending because they worry about their job, plants lay people off as sales decline and eventually the whole pace of the economy slows.

Manufacturing companies that make long-lasting durable goods account for 20 to 25 per cent of total job opportunities and they have long been seen as the backbone of America.

More foreign sales of U.S.-made goods are seen as a possible saviour because of strong markets in countries like Germany, but may not be enough to offset seeping weakness at home.

The problem is we buy an awful lot more Mercedes than they do Chevrolets," Jones remarked.

The rest of the work opportunities are in service industries, not simply low-paying "hamburger-

flipper" jobs but also highly skilled health care, financial and real estate. Those jobs have been increasing, though more slowly in 1990, while manufacturing jobs shrink.

The Labour Department said last week that 30,000 U.S. factory jobs were lost in June alone.

"Since the current slide in manufacturing employment began in the spring of 1989, job losses have totalled 335,000, with especially large declines in durable goods industries such as electrical equipment, autos, fabricated metals and machinery," said Janet Norwood, commissioner of Bureau of Labour Statistics.

Somewhat ominously, says economist Jones, the pace of job growth in service industries also has begun to slow. Excluding temporary employees hired to count Americans for the 10-year census, service jobs have expanded by an average 122,000 a month for three months compared with 203,000 a month over the past 12 months.

"It doesn't say we're going to be in recession tomorrow," Jones said, "but it does suggest the economy is on a downward glide path perhaps towards a hard landing rather than the soft landing the Fed wants."

The Federal Reserve (Fed) board — the U.S. central bank that controls money-supply policies — has been trying to wring wage and price-rise pressures out of the economy without pushing it into recession in a scenario that is known as a soft landing.

Gulf tension sends jitters through world oil markets

SINGAPORE (R) — Rising tension in the Middle East is sending jitters through the oil markets as traders wait to see who will win a battle of the oil giants at next week's OPEC meeting.

A war of words between Iraq and Kuwait has boosted world oil prices last week but could sabotage the July 26 meeting of Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) oil industry sources said Friday.

"The world is not short of oil," said one international oil trader. "But I am going to square my books before leaving the office at night — I don't want to wake up in the morning and suddenly find someone fired a gun."

Iraq has accused Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) of stabbing Iraq in the back by producing too much oil and driving oil prices down.

Iraq's President Saddam Hussein launched his attack on fellow Gulf oil producers less than a week after the two OPEC quota-busters agreed to sharply reduce their output to 1.5 million barrels per day (b/d) each.

"Iraq knew Kuwait was going to ask for a bigger production quota from October in return for reducing output in the interim," said a European company oil trader based here.

"It's a clear message to Kuwait that it will not get a higher quota," he added.

Saddam said Tuesday that Baghdad would take unspecified action against some Gulf Arab states if they continued to undermine the Iraqi economy.

Iraq's Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz later accused Kuwait of stealing more than \$2.4 billion worth of oil from Iraq over the past decade by pumping crude from what he said were Iraqi fields.

In a counter-attack Thursday, Kuwait accused Iraq of consistent encroachments on its territory and of digging oil wells in its territory.

Oil traders say the outcome of an OPEC meeting held in this atmosphere is impossible to predict.

If Iraq is supported by other traditional OPEC hawks Iran, Libya and Algeria, OPEC oil production could be capped at 22.5 million b/d for the rest of the year which could push prices sharply higher.

"Prices will rise if Iraq get control of the situation," said the European oil trader.

OPEC moderates such as Saudi Arabia want modest price rises and favour raising output in the fourth quarter if the current \$18 target is achieved in the meantime, oil industry sources say.

The Middle East benchmark crude, from Dubai, is currently trading just over \$16.00 a barrel for cargoes loading in September.

If Kuwait refuses to stick to a production quota of 1.5 million b/d from October, the UAE would also want to produce more and total OPEC output will start to creep up again before the market has a chance to absorb the current worldwide glut, oil sources say.

"The OPEC meeting is very complicated now," said the international oil trader.

"Iraq says it would consider using force — we've never had that situation at OPEC before," he noted.

He said Saudi Arabia and Kuwait have to take Iraq's threats seriously. "Iraq has a huge army out there — no one likes to be bullied into anything but they have no choice."

"Saudi Arabia is still a powerful force in OPEC but Iraq is becoming stronger," said a Japanese oil trader.

"There are still two possible outcomes of the OPEC meeting," said the European oil trader. "I'm staying absolutely square."

Meanwhile, Libyan Oil Minister Fawzi Shakhbouki has urged independent producers to support OPEC efforts to stabilise the world oil market.

He told an African Petroleum Producers' Association (APPA) meeting in Tripoli that some non-OPEC exporters shared the blame with certain OPEC members for the 30 per cent decline in oil prices during the first half of this year.

Shakhbouki named no names, but the OPEC members he was apparently referring to were Kuwait and the UAE.

"We believe that such stability could only be achieved through the creation of a balance in supply and demand in the market and this is the responsibility of all oil exporting countries," the Libyan news agency JANA quoted him as saying.

GOOD JOB OFFER FOR FEMALE TEACHER

A Jordanian school teacher with a University Degree in Education and adequate teaching experience in Arabic and English is wanted. The teacher will also be responsible for supervising sports activities and encouraging extra-curricular interests. International experience, fluency in English, a creative, intellectually-oriented personality and an enthusiastic disposition are also required. Good salary and career opportunities offered. Applications together with reference and a photograph should be sent to:

P. O. Box 182104
Amman, Jordan

Many villas and apartments for rent & sale furnished or unfurnished in Abdoun, Um Uthaina, Swellah and many other locations. For more details please call **ABDOUN REAL ESTATE** Tel: 810609, 810605 Fax: 810520

CAR FOR SALE

1984 Suzuki 4 WD Jeep, long wheel base, canvas top, good condition, duty unpaid.

Price JD 2,000

Tel: 668191 (Sun.-Thurs.)

FOR RENT

Two furnished apartments each consists of one bedroom — living room — kitchen and bath — central heating & telephones.

Location: Jabal Amman, bet. 3rd & 4th Circles.

Tel. 641443 - 642351

Luxurious Furnished Flat For Rent

One master bedroom, 2 further bedrooms, 3 salons, one dining room, 2½ bathrooms, 3 balconies, central heating, servant quarter. Located in Shmeisani. Furnished in luxurious Italian furniture. Diplomatic communities and foreign companies are preferable. Annual Rent.

For more information please call tel. 670140

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Thursday, July 19, 1990
Central Bank official rates

	Buy	Sell	French franc	120.1	129.8
U.S. dollar	663.0	667.0	Japanese yen (for 100)	449.2	451.9
Pound Sterling	1204.4	1211.6	Deutsch mark	337.4	339.5
Deutschemark	402.8	405.2	Swedish crown	111.3	112.0
Swiss franc	468.9	471.7	Italian lire (for 100)	35.0	35.3
			Belgian franc (for 10)	195.0	196.2

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at mid-session on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Friday.

One Sterling	1.8130/40	U.S. dollar	1.1335/45
One U.S. dollar	1.6410/15	Canadian dollar	1.4055/65
	1.8485/95	Deutschemark	33.75/76
	1.4055/65	Dutch guilder	5.3020/70
	33.75/76	Swiss franc	1200/1201
	5.3020/70	Belgian franc	148.97/149.07
	1200/1201	French franc	5.9350/9400
	148.97/149.07	Italian lire	6.2875/2925
	5.9350/9400	Japanese yen	6.2275/2325
	6.2875/2925	Swedish crown	360.70/361.10
	6.2275/2325	Norwegian crown	
One ounce of gold	360.70/361.10	Danish crown	
		U.S. dollars	

A TASTE of the USA

Tomorrow

FREE

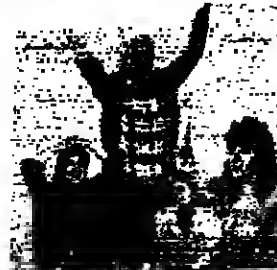
HI WAY SUPERMARKET (University St.)
SWEET SUPERMARKET (5th Circle)
Agents Lalita Trading Est. Tel. 684261

Cinema **RAINBOW** Tel: 625155

PERFORMANCES: 3:30, 6:30, 8:30 p.m.

Cinema **CONCORD** Tel: 677420

Dureid Lahham /
Madeline Tabar
in
KAFROUN



Performances: 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

Cinema **PHILADELPHIA** Tel: 634144

Shirley Maclaine
in
MARABLE STRATEGIES



Performances: 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

Cinema **NIJOUN** Tel: 675571

Amro Thlab and Mediha Kamel
in
THE PERSONS
(Arabic)



Performances: 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30
Friday & Sunday extra show at 11:00 a.m.

Cinema **PLAZA** Tel: 699238

Amro Thlab and Mediha Kamel
in
THE PERSONS
(Arabic)



Performances: 3:30, 6:15, 10:30

the Forum Design a new Concept in Office Furniture

FORUM FURNITURE
Facing Philadelphia Hotel Tel. Showroom 686056

N. Korea rejects South's offer to open heavily fortified border

SEOUL (R) — North Korea Friday swiftly countered a South Korea challenge to temporarily open their heavily fortified border, laying down strict conditions before Koreans could walk between the two halves of their nation.

Pyeongyang imposed the conditions less than 10 hours after South Korean President Roh Tae-Woo made the offer to open the border for five days centred around Korean independence day on Aug. 15.

Roh, calling Pyongyang's bluff, echoed a similar proposal Pyongyang made two weeks ago and cold-shouldered as "a piece of propaganda," at that time by Seoul.

A Roh spokesman, quoted by Yonhap News Agency, said Seoul would open the border regardless of Pyongyang's reaction.

The spokesman said the issue would be discussed Saturday by the South Korean cabinet. There was no other immediate comment

from the presidential spokesman.

South Korea's state-run Korea Broadcasting System quoted Pyongyang as saying North Korea demanded the demolition of a so-called wall along the border, repeal of laws banning travel to the North and formation of a joint North-South committee to resolve border issues.

The official (North) Korean Central News Agency, monitored in Tokyo, quoted Pyongyang authorities as saying:

"We declare that if the above-said matters are resolved, we will believe what the South Korean authorities said is true and realise a partial travel through Panmunjom without time-limit from the 15th of August, though limited."

The statement was milder than a report earlier Friday on South Korean state radio reporting that Pyongyang had rejected Roh's offer as "frivolous propaganda."

Japan's Kyodo News Agency, quoting Pyongyang radio, carried a similar report.

Analysts and diplomats had hoped Roh's offer to open the border would prompt a new round of dialogue between the Koreans, bitterly opposed since the 1950-53 Korean War.

Seoul has already moved to ease some restrictions on travel to the North, although unauthorised trips are still punishable by long prison terms.

The issue of the "wall" may be thornier, however. Seoul says the "wall" is actually a series of non-continuous tank traps designed to prevent another Northern invasion.

"For five days beginning Aug. 13, we will keep Panmunjom

open as passage and will accept brethren from the North without restriction," Roh said earlier Friday.

"This is our proposal, let's make some move," challenged presidential advisor Lee Hong-Koo.

"Let's have at least five days of free passage through Panmunjom," Lee told reporters.

Lee said Roh's cabinet would meet Saturday to settle practical details that would translate Roh's announced "free, unrestricted and unconditional exchange" into a regulated programme for a limited number of people.

"We will try to maximise the number of people who can be processed," Lee said, promising that individual political beliefs would not be considered.

On July 6, Pyongyang offered to open its half of Panmunjom for free cross-border travel on Aug. 15 and challenged the South to do the same.

Hopes fade for Philippine quake victims

BAGUIO, Philippines (R) — Rescuers searched in vain for signs of life among collapsed buildings Friday and Philippine officials feared the death toll from the deadliest earthquake to hit the country in 14 years could exceed 1,000.

Four days after a powerful quake devastated this northern Philippine mountain city, a new tragedy struck when a U.S. marine observation plane on a relief mission crashed into a nearby mountain, killing its pilot and injuring a crewman.

In Manila, President Corason Aquino called an emergency cabinet meeting for Friday night and army rebels announced they were suspending hostilities against her while the country was recovering from the calamity.

American, British and Japanese rescue experts tunneled through mounds of rubble at Baguio's Hyatt Hotel, the only building where relief workers believe victims may still be alive after being entombed in the ruins for four days.

Rescuers abandoned hope of finding anyone alive at four other Baguio hotels and the university campus, where school buildings crumbled at the height of the quake, which measured 7.7 on the open-ended Richter Scale.

The discovery of up to 100 bodies under landslides to the north of Baguio pushed the death toll beyond 800.

"Tourism Under-Secretary Rafael Alunan said the final toll could easily exceed 1,000" since many areas that might have suffered heavy destruction had not yet been thoroughly surveyed.

"There are many areas we have not seen. We have not even begun to make a headcount," Alunan said.

Bodies were piled up outside funeral parlours which could not meet the demands for coffins.

A U.S. Marine OV-10 observation aircraft was flying around Baguio City to discover where victims of the earthquake were stranded when it smashed into a mountain five kilometres south of the city.

U.S. officials said they were investigating the cause of the crash.

Ex-army Colonel Gregorio Honasan, whose forces nearly toppled the government in a bloody coup attempt last December, said in a press statement that rebel soldiers were suspending all hostile actions against the government in view of the calamity.

In exchange, Honasan asked Aquino to suspend military operations against the rebels, saying "opportunities like this which could lead to a total reunification of the country should not be wasted."

Cambodia welcomes U.S. policy shift

BANGKOK (Agencies) — The Cambodian government in Phnom Penh, shaken by more frequent Khmer Rouge attacks and internal bickering, has welcomed a decision by the United States to end its recognition of the guerrillas' seat at the United Nations.

The state-run news agency SPK quoted a Foreign Ministry spokesman as saying: "the government of the state of Cambodia warmly welcomes this constructive stance of the United States and considers it a new encouragement to the Cambodian people in their national defence and reconstruction."

A transcript of the report was made available here on Friday. The diplomatically isolated Cambodian government, installed in 1978 after Vietnam ousted the Khmer Rouge from power, has looked increasingly vulnerable to guerrilla attacks and political infighting since the withdrawal of Vietnamese troops last year.

At the same time it has won admiration among some Western and Asian nations who see it as

the only effective buttress against a return to power of the Khmer Rouge, held responsible for the deaths of more than a million Cambodians during its 1975-78 rule.

In his surprise statement Wednesday, U.S. Secretary of State James Baker said Washington would do all it could to prevent a takeover by the radical guerrilla group, including direct talks with Hanoi on speeding up a political solution.

The United States and China have in the past decade supported the guerrilla coalition, formed from the ashes of the Khmer Rouge and exile groups, in its bush-war against Phnom Penh. But only in the last year have the guerrillas looked a serious threat. Meanwhile, non-Communist Cambodian guerrillas said Friday heavy government shelling has forced them out of a central Cambodian town that functioned as the capital of the territory they control.

Guerrillas loyal to Prince Norodom Sihanouk retreated along with civilians Thursday to the outskirts of the town, Stoung,

in Kompong Thom province, said spokesman Roland Eng.

He said government forces had rained artillery shells and rockets on the area for two days, and some civilians were hurt.

Neither side held Stoung Friday, but some guerrillas have returned there, Eng said in a telephone interview from his Bangkok office.

The guerrillas said they took Stoung April 12, and since used it as an administrative and communications base for wide areas of the province they have seized.

Eng denied a statement from the Cambodian government that it had retaken Stoung last Sunday.

Stoung is only about 150 kilometres north of the national capital, Phnom Penh. It was the most populated town under guerrilla control with tens of thousands of residents.

Sihanouk said Thursday his forces were more determined than ever to fight after the U.S. announced a day earlier that it was withdrawing recognition of the coalition's seat at the United Nations.

Cuba accuses U.S., W. Germany and Czechoslovakia of asylum plot

HAVANA (R) — Cuba has released testimony by dissidents and would-be asylum seekers who accused foreign diplomats of a plot to discredit Cuba through a failed asylum bid at the Czechoslovak embassy.

The testimony, in a programme screened by Cuba's state television, said an asylum bid by 14 Cubans at the Czechoslovak embassy in Havana last week was a planned provocation conceived by U.S. and West German diplomats and carried out by the Czechoslovak mission.

It also suggested the Canadian embassy might have been implicated in the alleged plot, a charge strongly denied by a Canadian embassy spokesman.

A spokesman for the U.S. interests section in Havana categorically denied any U.S. involvement in the asylum affair, which has badly strained relations between Cuba and its former Communist ally Czechoslovakia.

"There is no truth at all in any association of the U.S. interests section with the events at the Czechoslovak embassy," a U.S. spokesman told Reuters.

West German and Czechoslovak diplomats were not immediately available for comment. Other Western diplomats expressed doubts about many of the details of the testimony. "There really are a lot of questions," one said.

The programme included testimony by two leading human-rights activists currently in detention facing rebellion charges, Tania Diaz Castro and Pablo Pupo, as well as three Cubans who took part in the failed asylum bid.

"This action was pre-conceived to create conflict both nationally and internationally," one of the Cubans who appeared on the programme, Lázaro Angel Cabrera, said.

Cabrera was one of five Cubans who sought protection at the Czechoslovak embassy on July 9. They were granted protection by the embassy, which asked Cuba to allow them to leave the country.

EC commissioner: Europe bored with Britain's narrow nationalists

LONDON (AP) — In a veiled rebuke to criticism of the Common Market by Ex-trade Secretary Nicholas Ridley, EC Commissioner Sir Leon Brittan said the rest of Europe is growing bored with Britain's nationalist stance.

"For some people in this country, the European debate never seems to move on," he said. "There are countless urgent and important decisions to be taken about its future size, role and structure. The whole of Europe, indeed, is at a critical and exciting stage of its history."

"Yet too often Britain is marginalised by those who continue to worry away at the bone of sovereignty, and by those who perpetuate the caricature of what the community represents," he said in a speech Thursday night.

"The British people are perplexed by the mixed signals they receive. The rest of Europe was patient, later annoyed and is now frankly bored by such attitudes. We (the British) are in danger of being ignored."

Brittan quit as trade secretary in Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's cabinet in 1986 in a dispute over handling of the ailing Westland Helicopter Company.

On Thatcher's nomination, he became one of Britain's two members of the 17-member Executive Commission of the 12-nation European Community (EC) in 1989. He is a vice president of the Brussels-based Commission and the body's commissioner for competition policy.

Ridley resigned as trade secret-

ary last week following publication of an interview in the weekly political magazine the Spectator.

In the interview, Ridley said the West German government's support for European Monetary Union was "a German racket designed to take over the whole of Europe," accused the French of acting like "poodles" to the Germans, and lambasted the Commission and other EC institutions.

Ridley withdrew the remarks within hours of their publication on July 12 but resigned two days later following a barrage of criticism at home and from Germany and other EC countries.

Brittan did not mention Ridley by name in his speech in London to an organisation of British legislators called the Bruges Group.

Marshall Islands reject U.S. plans to burn nerve gas

MAJURO, Marshall Islands (R) — Micronesian leaders objected Friday to U.S. plans to burn its European nerve gas stockpile in the Pacific. The Federated States of Micronesia, a former U.S. territory in the Western Pacific still closely associated with Washington, said that burning America's chemical-weapons stockpile on Johnston Island violated U.S. and international law on disposing hazardous wastes.

"Transporting the European stockpile halfway around the world inescapably increases the risks," a government statement said.

"If there is an accident during the off-loading of the European stockpile, the community affected will not be the United States, it will be the Pacific Island nations," it added.

Micronesia added its protest to a growing barrage of criticism from governments and environmental organisations in the region about the U.S. army's plan to move chemical weapons now stored in West Germany to Johnston Island.

The weapons would be shipped in September to Johnston, a tiny, low-lying coral island just large enough to accommodate a jet runway. It is located 1,400

kilometres southwest of Hawaii and lies 3,000 kilometres east of the Micronesian Island chain.

Micronesia has a population of 140,000 people scattered across hundreds of islands in an ocean area the size of the continental United States.

U.S. army officials said tests of the chemical-weapons incinerator on Johnston Island earlier this month were successful, and full-scale destruction of chemical weapons already on the island should begin next year.

In an environmental impact statement released in June, the U.S. army claimed the risks of

accidents during shipment and handling of the weapons were minimal.

"The army's plan may be politically expedient, but it ignores the need for a coherent solution to the problem," the Micronesian statement said.

Micronesia is also worried that Johnston Island may be used in the future to dispose of other hazardous materials.

"Suspensions are necessarily aroused because of the U.S. government's broken promise to use Johnston solely for the management of the Okinawa stockpile," it said.

Sri Lanka extends emergency to 'crush' rebels

COLOMBO (R) — Sri Lanka's parliament has extended a state of emergency after Deputy Defence Minister Ranjan Wijeratne said special powers were needed to "hammer the daylight" out of Tamil separatist guerrillas.

"We are going to crush them but we need the emergency and your support to allow its extension," Wijeratne told a late-night debate.

More than 1,400 people have been killed in fighting in the northeast since June after the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) started attacking army camps and police posts.

The attacks took many by surprise since the Tigers, the most powerful rebel group fighting for a separate state for minority Tamils, were holding peace talks with the government.

Wijeratne said troops had made inroads into rebel territory in the east and were pursuing them into the jungles. "We are taking them head-on," he said.

The thrust was now in the north, he said but added: "I can't give the strategy."

"You will soon see our valiant forces hammering the daylight out of those criminals," said Wijeratne, whose pugnacious words make newspaper headlines daily.

However, residents in the east, which the government said had been cleared of rebels, say Tiger guerrillas were still prowling in towns and villages.

"As soon as it is dark, the army is absent and the rebels move freely with arms," one villager said.

The state of emergency, imposed in May, 1989, to combat leftwing militants of the majority Sinhalese community who were trying to topple the government, gives the security forces extra powers and must be extended by parliament every month.

On Thursday, the extension was approved by 117 votes to one against.

The main opposition, the Sri Lanka Freedom Party, said it was backing the military action but opted to abstain from voting.

Wijeratne, who is also minister in charge of a plantation industries, said troops had taken control of most parts of Mannar on the northwest coast, where the Tigers bombarded army camps with mortars and rocketfire.

"We have offered Mannar island to the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to keep refugees there," he said.

At least 25,000 Tamils have fled in boats to south India, divided from north Sri Lanka by a 32-kilometre stretch of water, to escape the fighting.

The minister claimed the Tigers were forcing residents to flee in order to get India's sympathy. "India lost 1,500 soldiers... in a war with the Tigers. They won't be foolish to send troops again," Wijeratne said.

New Delhi sent 50,000 men between July, 1987, and March, 1990, to end the separatist revolt but the Tigers were not defeated.

Wijeratne denied Tiger charges of army attacks on civilians but said: "We are impressing upon soldiers that they should win the hearts and minds of the people. Things are under control."

But visitors to the rebel stronghold of Jaffna in the north reported large-scale destruction of buildings and property in bombing raids by air force planes. Civilian casualties were also high, they said.

The military office, monitoring the offensive, said Friday that two rebels were killed in overnight searches at Tirukovil in the east.

It reported deaths of 49 rebels and two soldiers in the 24 hours to Thursday afternoon. The report could not be independently checked.

Jaruzelski hints he might resign

WARSAW (AP) — President Wojciech Jaruzelski marked his first year in office Thursday and told a national television audience that he is ready to resign when the moment is right.

Jaruzelski, in a rare TV appearance, said he would not take a position in the public debate now raging on how long he should stay in office.

"I think it would be better if others made the statements," said Jaruzelski, who assumed office July 19, 1989. He previously was the Communist Party head and had led the country in the martial-law years and during the negotiations with the revitalised Solidarity movement that led to elections in which Poland rejected communism.

"I don't consider myself

Yeltsin abolishes privileges for officials

MOSCOW (AP) — Russian Federation President Boris Yeltsin, who won popular support by denouncing the privileges enjoyed by the ruling elite, has abolished those luxuries for the republic's officials, Soviet News Agency (TASS) reported Thursday.

The decree did not appear to apply to thousands of high-ranking officials of the national government and Communist Party who live and work in Moscow, which is both the capital of the Soviet Union and the Russian Federation, the largest of the 15 Soviet republics.

The decree from the Presidium of the Russian Parliament that was signed by Yeltsin abolished

all kinds and forms of privileges to officials in the Russian Federation as of Aug. 1, saying they "violate social justice," TASS reported.

Abolished were privileges "on power, on unearned payments, on undeserved benefits, (and) on comfortable working and living conditions of organisations, enterprises, offices and workers of the apparatus of state organs."

It said that as of Aug. 1, all legislative acts, resolutions, instructions and regulations directly or indirectly ensuring privileges to officials, "no matter what posts they hold," will be considered invalid.

IRA bomb explodes at London Stock Exchange

LONDON (R) — An IRA bomb blasted the London Stock Exchange Friday, wrecking part of the ground floor but causing no casualties.

A city of London police spokeswoman said the building was evacuated within three minutes after telephone warnings to an international news agency from a caller claiming to represent the guerrilla Irish Republican Army (IRA).

"There is a lot of rubble and a lot of damage but no casualties," the police spokeswoman, who was at the scene of the blast, said.

The fire brigade said 10 per cent of the ground floor at the stock exchange, where about 2,500 people work, was damaged when the bomb went off some 50 minutes after the first warning was received.

Workers outside the building said it appeared the blast occurred in the visitors' gallery overlooking the main trading floor.

The attack is the second to be claimed by the IRA within a month and to strike at the heart of the British establishment in central London.

"It sounded like someone dropping a girder on a building site," dealer Warren Vede said outside the building.

Options are traded at the stock exchange building but there is no physical market for shares on the premises, with most stock transactions made via computer in brokerage houses.

Two anonymous calls were received by the news agency. One caller, who spoke with an

Irish accent, said: "This is the IRA. The bomb is due to go off in half an hour at the stock exchange." He then gave a code word and said: "Clear the building."

The IRA, fighting to oust Britain from Northern Ireland, uses a code word recognised by police to show that its bomb threats are serious. Anti-terrorist police rushed to the scene.

"The fire alarm went off and we were told this is not a test," said Lee Hodgkins, who works in the building.

Other workers said security precautions at the stock exchange were poor and access was easy through its back entrance.

The IRA last carried out a bombing in London on June 25, targeting the Carlton Club, a popular meeting place for members of the ruling Conservative Party. Four people were injured in that explosion.

Founded in the 18th century, the stock exchange is now housed in a modern building near the Bank of England. It ceased to operate as a trading floor in 1986 when the share market was automated.

The IRA has launched its most intensive bombing campaign in mainland Britain in 16 years. Police have warned military officers, politicians and anyone connected with Northern Ireland affairs to be on the lookout for suspicious packages.

The telephoned warning was the first in the current bombing wave that began almost two years ago.

2 U.S. students killed in England bus crash

OXFORD, England (AP) — Police Friday began questioning the driver and passengers of a bus which overturned near Oxford, killing two U.S. students and injuring 59 other people.

The yellow double-decker bus carrying summer school students and staff to an arts festival went out of control Thursday as it turned off the A40 highway near Wheatley, 10 kilometres east of Oxford, said Thames Valley Police Chief Inspector John Wheeler.

No other vehicle was reported involved in the incident.

Police said Friday they were interviewing the bus driver, 40-year-old Gan Sharma, who was slightly hurt, and passengers.

Authorities said some of the people on the bus were thrown through windows, some crawled out of the bus, some were pulled free and at least three were trapped inside for an hour.

Ambulance superintendent Robin Finlayson said: "It was a scene of utter chaos and mayhem. There were girls and boys trapped in the coach and others strewn up the bank. They were crying, howling and bloody... many had crush injuries."

Police identified the two dead students as 18-year-old Autumn Dubose of Lilburn, Georgia, and a 16-year-old Lawrence Levine of

Chappaqua, New York state.

Police said the 61 people on the bus included 47 Americans, 5 Britons, 2 Japanese and one each from Canada, France, the Netherlands, Austria, Italy, and Mexico. The nationality of one student was not known.

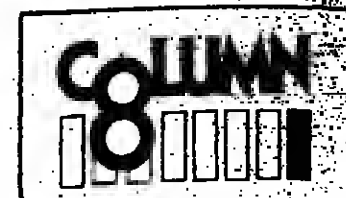
Most of the Americans were gifted students on a four-week summer school course at Oxford University's Magdalen College organised by the Oxford Advanced Studies Programme in New York, U.S. coordinator Paul Beresford-Hill said. Their ages ranged from 16 to 20.

Max Koltav, a 16-year-old New Yorker who broke several bones in his hand, said he and three others were sitting in the front row on the top deck of the bus.

"I knew it was going too fast when it began to turn off the road. Suddenly, it began to tip and it rolled right over onto the embankment. The four of us

were thrown through the front window and out into the grass, clear of the bus," he said. "I blacked out but came around about 30 seconds later and all the people left on the bus were shouting and were hysterical," he said.

Police Chief Inspector Laurie Fray said 59 people were injured, four seriously. Most were teenagers.



Stars celebrate Queen Mother Elizabeth's birthday

LONDON (AP) — Queen Mother Elizabeth sang with gusto as a start-studded cast took her down memory lane at a gala celebrating her 90th birthday. The show at the London Palladium Thursday night highlighted the changing face of entertainment throughout the Queen Mother's nine decades, from the Edwardian music hall to pop music and the hit musical Phantom of the Opera.

The 2,298-seat theatre was packed and millions of Britons are expected to watch the gala when it is shown on BBC-TV on Aug. 4, the Queen Mother's birthday. From "Oh tell me pretty maiden" by Flora Dora, a hugely successful musical first staged in 1900, the year of her birth, the show sweeps on nostalgically through the music of the 1920s. A Noel Coward sequence was introduced by Sir John Mills, who reminded the Queen Mother that her "great friend" would also have been 90 this year. "And I know he would have wanted to have been the first to salute you," Mills said.

The Queen Mother sang along enthusiastically with Bernie Winters and Leslie Crowther when they re-enacted the famous Flanagan and Allen routines Underneath the Arch and Strolling. After the show, she told Winters, who was a great favourite of her late husband, King George VI: "I had a little weep. The show brought back some very happy memories of my late husband."

Incendiary device sent to Diana

LONDON (AP) — A crude incendiary device was sent to Princess Diana at Buckingham Palace Thursday, Scotland Yard said. Within minutes, it was spotted by the palace's security system and anti-terrorist squad, officer later took it away for forensic examination. "A police statement said: 'It must be emphasised that this crude incendiary device was not a bomb and did not originate from any terrorist organisation,' the statement said. Police sources said the device is believed to have been the work of "a crank."

Police said the device was found in a letterbox at the palace. It was a small, rectangular object with a fuse and a small flame.

The device was found in a letterbox at the palace. It was a small, rectangular object with a fuse and a small flame.

The device was found in a letterbox at the palace. It was a small, rectangular object with a fuse and a small flame.

The device was found in a letterbox at the palace. It was a small, rectangular object with a fuse and a small flame.

The device was found in a letterbox at the palace. It was a small, rectangular object with a fuse and a small flame.

The device was found in a letterbox at the palace. It was a small, rectangular object with a fuse and a small flame.

The device was found in a letterbox at the palace. It was a small, rectangular object with a fuse and a small flame.

The device was found in a letterbox at the palace. It was a small, rectangular object with a fuse and a small flame.

The device was found in a letterbox at the palace. It was a small, rectangular object with a fuse and a small flame.

The device was found in a letterbox at the palace. It was a small, rectangular object with a fuse and a small flame.

The device was found in a letterbox at the palace. It was a small, rectangular object with a fuse and a small flame.

The device was found in a letterbox at the palace. It was a small, rectangular object with a fuse and a small flame.

The device was found in a letterbox at the palace. It was a small, rectangular object with a fuse and a small flame.

The device was found in a letterbox at the palace. It was a small, rectangular object with a fuse and a small flame.